FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-048
Monday
15 March 1993

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-048 CONTENTS *15 March 1993*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Officials Say Gradual Return Not Acceptable *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* ... 1
Hamas-U.S. Contact May Cause 'Arafat-Abu-Nidal Talks *[London AL-HAWADITH 12 Mar]* ... 1
Hamas Said To Support State in Occupied Land *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* ... 1
    PLO's 'Abbas on Hamas Statement *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* ... 1
PLO, Hamas Discuss Israeli Withdrawal From Gaza *[JORDAN TIMES 13 Mar]* ... 2
'Arafat Reportedly Stops Dialogue With Hamas *[AL-DUSTUR 15 Mar]* ... 3
'Ashrawi on Conditions for Rejoining Negotiations *[AL-AHALI 10 Mar]* ... 3
Qaddumi Reportedly Fails To Secure Syrian Support *[MENA]* ... 4
PLO Disavows Hurani Remarks on Russia *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 12 Mar]* ... 5
Invitation Rejection Said 'Clearest Signal' to U.S. *[JORDAN TIMES 13 Mar]* ... 5
'Arafat Adviser on U.S., Peace Talks *[Cairo International]* ... 6
Unified Arab Stand Urged To Counter Israel *[Algiers VOP]* ... 7
'Joint Arab Decision' Urged Against U.S. 'Pressure' *[Algiers VOP]* ... 8
Rejection of Invitation To Resume Talks Viewed *[Algiers VOP]* ... 8
'Arafat Said To Dismiss PLO Envoy to Sudan *[AL-ITTIHAD 10 Mar]* ... 9

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Senior Official Seriously Wounded in Armed Attack *[Algiers TV]* ... 10
Trial of Terrorists Resumes in Algiers *[Algiers Radio]* ... 10

Egypt

Mubarak To Meet al-Asad; Comments on Sudan, Iran *[MENA]* ... 10
Sudan Troop Movements Noted; Iran Said To Back Sudan *[AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY]* ... 11
Musa Regrets Sudan's Closure of University *[MENA]* ... 11
Consultative Council on Mubarak Sudan Statements *[Cairo Radio]* ... 11
Parliamentary Committee Issues Statement on Sudan *[Cairo Radio]* ... 11
Musa on Message to Christopher, Nonproliferation *[MENA]* ... 12
Egyptian-Syrian Memorandum Sent to Christopher *[Cairo Radio]* ... 12
Clinton-Rabin Meeting Said To Affect Peace *[MENA]* ... 12
PLO's Sha'th on Separate Israeli-Syrian Peace *[MENA]* ... 12
'Chaos' Could Result From Israel's Gaza Pullout *[MENA]* ... 12
Increased Security Implemented at Libyan Border *[MENA]* ... 13
Students Protesting Teacher's Transfer Arrested *[MENA]* ... 13
    Fifty-two Injured, 87 Arrested *[AFP]* ... 13
    Interior Ministry Denies Clash, Curfew *[MENA]* ... 14
    Minister Reinstates Dismissed Students *[AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY]* ... 14
Shaykh Urges Implementation of Shari'ah Rule *[AFP]* ... 14
Security Tightened Around Threatened Cafe *[AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY]* ... 14

Sudan

More Than 300 Troops of SPLA Surrender to Government *[AFP]* ... 15
'Secret' Officers' Organization Said To Rule *[London AL-MAJALLAH 10-16 Mar]* ... 15
Ministry Official Denies Existence of Iranian Ships *[SUNA]* ... 16

- Ambassador on U.S. Condemning Country's Human Rights *[SUNA]* ... 16
- Envoy to UK Reacts To 'American Attack' *[London International]* ... 16
- Officials Deny Sudan Center of Terrorism *[Omdurman Radio]* ... 17
- University Takeover Begins; Bookings to Cairo Rise *[MENA]* ... 17
  - Education Minister on Takeover *[SUNA]* ... 17
  - New Administration Taking Control *[Omdurman International]* ... 18
  - Teachers Barred From Campus *[MENA]* ... 18

ARABIAN PENINSULA

- GCC Oil Ministers Open Closed Session ... 19
  - Kuwaiti, Omani, Qatari Ministers Arrive *[Riyadh Radio]* ... 19
  - Session Convened *[SPA]* ... 19
  - Kuwaiti Minister's Statement *[Kuwait Radio]* ... 19
  - More on Kuwaiti's Comments *[KUNA]* ... 19
  - Committee Issues Statement *[SPA]* ... 19
- Gulf States Warned Against Serb Business in Region *[AFP]* ... 20

Kuwait

- Bombs Explode in Kuwait City; No Casualties *[KUNA]* ... 20
- Foreign Minister on Talabani Visit, Beirut Explosion *[KUNA]* ... 21
- Interior Minister on Activities on Iraqi Border *[MENA]* ... 21

Oman

- Accords With India for Refineries, Pipeline *[Delhi Radio]* ... 21

Saudi Arabia

- King Thanks Pakistan, U.S. for Afghan Support *[Riyadh TV]* ... 21
- Afghan Community Thanks King for Peace Efforts *[SPA]* ... 21

IRAQ

- Saddam Addresses Tribesmen in al-Basrah *[INA]* ... 23
  - Saddam Speech to Chieftains *[Baghdad Radio]* ... 23
- Saddam Receives Maysan Governorate Chieftains *[Baghdad Radio]* ... 23
- Regime Said To Attack Irbil province Village *[Voice of Kurdestan]* ... 24
- 'More Than 150' Tribal Leaders Reported Executed *[Voice of Kurdestan]* ... 24
- 'Abnormal' Status in North Discussed *[INA]* ... 24
- 'Mujahidin' Said To Threaten 'Tyrant's Henchmen' *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* ... 24
- Kurdish Official on 'Obstacles' Facing Autonomy *[AL-'IRAQ 10 Mar]* ... 25
- SAIRI Sources Cited on Arrests, Torture in South *[Tehran Radio]* ... 25
- Recent U-2 Overflights Protested to UN Chief *[INA]* ... 25
- Arab League Informed of Airspace 'Violations' *[INA]* ... 26
- Health Minister: Embargo Fatalities Total 233,789 *[INA]* ... 26
- Egyptian Envoy on Goals of Baghdad Assignment *[INA]* ... 26
- Editorial Assails Egypt on Envoy's Arrival *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* ... 26
- MENA Office Resumes Activity in Baghdad *[INA]* ... 27
- Hurani Remarks on Relations With Russia Denied *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* ... 27
- PUK Leader Talabani on Kuwait Visit *[Cairo Radio]* ... 27
- Zambia Decision To Cut Ties Called Reckless *[Baghdad Radio]* ... 28

ISRAEL

- Reportage on Rabin's Activities in Washington ... 29
- Aide on Meeting With U.S. Officials *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 29
  - 'Pleased' After Christopher Talks *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 14 Mar]* ... 29
  - 'Turkish Option' To Be Discussed *[HA'ARETZ 12 Mar]* ... 30
  - Rabinovich on Upcoming Clinton Meeting *[Tel Aviv Radio]* ... 30

  - Rabinovich on U.S. Paper on Syria *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
  - Golan Possible Topic of Talks *[HA'ARETZ 15 Mar]* 31
  - Rabin Said Meeting 'Friend in White House' *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 14 Mar]* 32
- Egyptian Envoy on al-Asad, Golan Heights *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
- Peres Affirms Priority of Negotiations With Syrians *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
- Hundreds of Golan Settlers Riot in Attempt To Cross Border *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
- Demonstrators Protest State of Internal Security *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
- Minister Proposes PLO-Led Palestinian State in Gaza *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 33
  - Further on Sarid Comments *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
- Cabinet To Increase Supervision of Arabs Entering Israel *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
- Gaza Notables Oppose Unilateral Withdrawal From Strip *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
- Six Gaza Strip Residents Wounded by IDF Fire *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
- Police Reorganize Operations To Meet Security Needs *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
- Cabinet Increases Police Force, Criticizes Call to Arms *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
- Opposition Voiced to Arming Civilians *[HA'ARETZ 14 Mar]* 35
- Violent Acts Across Country Reported 35
  - 'Afula, Qatzrin Area Violence *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
  - Palestinian Infant Shot by Soldiers Dies *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
  - Soldiers Wounded in Hebron; Bomb in 'Afula *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
  - IDF Soldier's Death Noted *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
  - Hebron Youth Killed by IDF *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
- Ministers, Likud Members Oppose Unity Government *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36

JORDAN

- PLO's Faruq Qaddumi Arrives on Working Visit *[Amman TV]* 37
  - Views Peace Process *[Amman Radio]* 37
  - Says PLO 'in Direct Contact' With U.S. *[AL-RA'Y 14 Mar]* 37
  - Meets King Husayn, Abu-Jabir *[Amman Radio]* 38
  - Talks With Abu-Jabir, Makes Statement *[Amman Tv]* 38
  - Discussess Area Issues *[VOP]* 38
  - Expects 'Positive Results' From U.S. *[Amman Tv]* 39
  - Bin-Shakir Confers With Qaddumi *[Amman Radio]* 39
  - Abu-Jabir on Meeting; Qaddumi Remarks *[JORDAN TIMES 13 Mar]* 39
- Foreign Minister Views Peace Talks, Deportees *[Cairo International]* 41

LEBANON

- President Leaves for Damascus, Meets al-Asad *[Beirut Radio]* 42
  - President Returns, Issues Statement *[RFL]* 42
- Deputy Premier Leaves for Visit to Syria *[VOL]* 42
- Al-Rantisi on al-Hirawi-al-Asad Meeting *[Beirut Radio]* 42
- Al-Rantisi Comments on Talks Participation *[Beirut Radio]* 42
- Egypt's 'Attacks' on Islam Condemned *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 43

SYRIA

- Al-Shar' Invites Arabs to Coordination Meeting *[Damascus Radio]* 44
- PLO's Qaddumi: Arabs May Take Part Without Palestinians *[VOL]* 44
  - Calls Damascus Visit 'Very Successful' *[Damascus Radio]* 44
- Al-Shar' Said To Accept Golan Withdrawal in 'Stages' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 44
- Lebanese President Arrives, Meets With al-Asad *[Damascus Radio]* 45
  - Bilateral Ties Discussed *[Damascus TV]* 45
  - Summit Called 'Very Important' *[Beirut Radio]* 45
- U.S. Urged To Adhere to 'Full Partner' Role *[Damascus Radio]* 45

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

- Hekmatyar Summons Jihadi Groups to Jalalabad Meeting *[Islamabad Radio]* 46

- Hekmatyar To Complete Cabinet Formation Within 2 Weeks *[Islamabad Radio]* ... 46
- Yunus Khales Rejects Iran Peacekeeping Troops Offer *[AFP]* ... 46
- Shiite Rebel Leader on Prospects for Lasting Peace *[AFP]* ... 47
- Militia Leader Optimistic on Prospects for Peace *[Tehran Radio]* ... 47

Bangladesh

- North Korean Vice President's Dhaka Visit Postponed *[AFP]* ... 48

India

- Further Reportage on Bombay Bomb Blasts ... 48
  - Officials, Parties React *[Delhi Radio]* ... 48
  - Reserve Police Sent *[Delhi Radio]* ... 49
  - Commentary Analyzes 'Foreign Hand' *[Delhi Radio]* ... 49
  - Death Toll Rises *[Delhi Radio]* ... 50
  - Bombay Situation Normalizes *[Delhi Radio]* ... 50
  - Rao Visits Blast Sites *[Delhi Radio]* ... 51
  - Several Suspects Detained *[AFP]* ... 51
  - Police Chief Suspects LTTE *[AFP]* ... 51
  - Rao Comments on Motive *[Delhi Radio]* ... 52
  - More Remarks by Rao, Others *[Delhi TV]* ... 52
  - Army Controls Key Installations *[Delhi Radio]* ... 53
  - Two New Bombs Found *[Delhi Radio]* ... 53
  - Find Termed Breakthrough *[AFP]* ... 54
  - Advani Urges Anti-Pakistan Campaign *[Delhi TV]* ... 54
  - Interpol Help Sought *[Delhi Radio]* ... 54
  - Muslim Brothers Suspected *[AFP]* ... 55
  - Governmment Statement in Parliament *[Delhi Radio]* ... 55
  - New Bomb Found 15 Mar *[AFP]* ... 56
  - Chavan Notes Clues Obtained *[Delhi Radio]* ... 56
  - Police Commissioner on Arrests *[AFP]* ... 56
  - Update on Situation *[Delhi TV]* ... 57
- Security Tightened in Bihar Towns Before Strike *[Delhi Radio]* ... 57
- 'Top' Punjab Militant Killed by Forces *[Delhi Radio]* ... 57
- Senior Kashmir Leader Abducted; 4 Punjab Militants Killed *[Delhi Radio]* ... 57
- Five 'Dreaded Militants' Killed in Kashmir Encounters *[Delhi Radio]* ... 57
- Ten Policemen Defect to Kashmir Mojahedin *[Islamabad TV]* ... 58
- Pakistan's 'Proxy War' in Kashmir Decried *[Delhi International]* ... 58
- GATT Proposals To Be Opposed if Farmers Hurt *[Delhi Radio]* ... 58

Iran

- Yazdi Friday Prayers Sermon 12 Mar *[Tehran Radio]* ... 59
- Tripartate Talks Held on Afghan Peace Accord ... 60
  - Afghanistan's Rabbani Arrives *[IRNA]* ... 60
  - Pakistani, Afghan Premiers Arrive *[IRNA]* ... 61
  - Pakistan's Sharif Makes Statement *[Islamabad Radio]* ... 61
  - Iran Offers Peacekeeping Troops *[Tehran Radio]* ... 61
  - Tripartite Talks Detailed *[IRNA]* ... 62
  - President, Afghan Leaders Comment *[Tehran Radio]* ... 63
  - Islamabad Reports Sharif Remarks *[Islamabad TV]* ... 64
  - Kabul Reports Talks *[Kabul Radio]* ... 65
  - Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets With Rabbani *[Tehran Radio]* ... 65
  - Rabbani Urges More Afghan Talks *[IRNA]* ... 65
  - President, Rabbani Comment *[Tehran Radio]* ... 66
  - Delegations Depart *[IRNA]* ... 67
  - Afghan Groups Urged To Heed Accord *[IRNA]* ... 67
  - 'Ambiguities' of Agreement Viewed *[Tehran TV]* ... 67
- Paper Says New Diplomatic Move Needed After NY Blast *[ETTELA'AT 7 Mar]* ... 68
- Army Reports Attack by Counterrevolutionaries From Iraq *[IRNA]* ... 69

Six Fighter Planes Raid Kurdish Party Offices *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 69
  Death Toll Updated *[AFP]* 69
  MKO Leader Threatens Retaliation *[AFP]* 69
  DPK Issues Statement *[Voice of Iranian Kordestan]* 69
Vice President Amrollahi Views Nuclear Program *[Tehran Radio]* 70
  More on Remarks *[Tehran Radio]* 71

Pakistan

Spokesman Rejects Indian Allegations Over Bombay Blasts *[Islamabad Radio]* 71
Sharif, Afghan Leaders Leave for Tehran *[Islamabad Radio]* 71
  Afghan Leaders Named *[Islambad TV]* 71
  Sharif, Others Return *[Islamabad Radio]* 72
Commentary Hails Mecca Accord on Afghanistan *[Islambad Radio]* 72
Karachi Jail Superintendent Killed by Parcel Bomb *[Islamabad Radio]* 73

Sri Lanka

LTTE Spokesman Denies Involvement in Bombay Bombings *[AFP]* 73
LTTE Major, 22 'Terrorists' Killed in Toppigala *[Colombo International]* 73

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Officials Say Gradual Return Not Acceptable

JN1203125793 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Muhammad Kurayshan dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Political Department, has denied that the PLO informed anybody that it had accepted a gradual return of the deportees according to a timetable that extends until next June. He said this is completely incorrect, that it is a distortion of the six points which the Palestinian delegation discussed with Warren Christopher in Jerusalem, including the demand that Israel cancel the principle of deportation and return of the deportees in southern Lebanon as soon as possible in accordance with a fixed timetable, in addition to guaranteeing human rights in the occupied territories and allowing the return of a great number of those deported since 1967.

PLO Executive Committee Member Sulayman al-Najjab said that the PLO has not committed itself to any timetable for the return of the deportees, adding that there is no room to discuss this issue as long as the Palestinian leadership has not obtained from Israel a pledge to implement Resolution 799 and to stop the entire policy of deportation.

The PLO leadership in Tunis believes that the refusal to accept the invitation to next month's Washington talks is meant to counter the U.S. refusal to clearly answer the six points which were presented to Christopher. Two of these points ask Washington to adhere to the points of reference for the negotiations, particularly the Jerusalem issue, and to denounce deportations as illegitimate.

Hamas-U.S. Contact May Cause 'Arafat-Abu-Nidal Talks

PM1203161393 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 12 Mar 93 p 17

[Unattributed report: "'Arafat Expected To Meet With Abu-Nidal in Baghdad After Ramadan"]

[Excerpts] Hamas's [Islamic Resistance Movement] circumventing of the PLO by holding direct contacts with the United States, even though at low level, has provoked the concern and anger of the Tunis-based PLO leadership. [passage omitted]

Amid the existing disagreements between the PLO and Hamas Yasir 'Arafat has found himself forced to close the fronts of his other disagreements with some of the Palestinian organizations opposed to him, first and foremost the Fatah-Revolutionary Council led by Sabri al-Banna (Abu-Nidal).

And it can be said that the sponsor of the reconciliation between 'Arafat and al-Banna is Shaykh As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi, leader of the "Islamic Jihad Movement—Bayt al-Maqdis."

Shaykh al-Tamimi managed to convince 'Arafat and al-Banna of the need to meet personally or at the level of their movements' representatives to discuss ways of stopping the bloody fighting which has been going on between them since 1990 in several arenas—particularly in the camps based in southern Lebanon—and to stop the war of liquidations and assassinations.

Sources close to Shaykh al-Tamimi say that the awaited meeting will take place in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, after the blessed 'Id al-Fitr [23 or 24 March].

It must be pointed out here that those following the affairs of Palestinian factions say that al-Banna is now convinced that he cannot continue the war of attrition against Fatah indefinitely, especially in view of the splits which his movement, Fatah-Revolutionary Council, has witnessed and which resulted in one wing of it breaking away and declaring its loyalty to Iran. [passage omitted]

Hamas Said To Support State in Occupied Land

JN1503065593 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Muhammad Nazzal, representative of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement in Jordan, has stressed that his movement does not object to establishing a Palestinian state in the territories occupied in 1967 as a first step toward liberating all Palestine. This is considered an important development in the position of this movement which has always called for establishing a Palestinian state from the [Jordan] River to the [Mediterranean] Sea. Nazzal's condition for establishing such a Palestinian state in the occupied territories is neither to recognize Israel nor to hold dialogue with it.

Nazzal reiterated his Movement's rejection of the Arab-Israeli peace talks blessed by the PLO. He said: Hamas has no reservations about the phased establishment of a Palestinian state on any land vacated by Israel whether voluntarily or by force. He noted that Hamas is now holding talks with Fatah and the other Palestinian factions in Amman and Damascus to discuss the possibility of a sudden Israeli withdrawal from Gaza.

PLO's 'Abbas on Hamas Statement

JN1403195093 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Excerpt] PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, has described Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] statement on its approval of setting up a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza as a kind of retreat from the original stands of this movement and a return to reason now that Hamas has realized that its proposals are unacceptable under the new international balances.

In statements in Amman, 'Abbas said that this stand by Hamas means its agreement on Security Council Resolution 242 which provides that all countries in the region have a right to live in peace and within secure borders. Commenting on Hamas' condition not to recognize Israel, 'Abbas said that this is a lame stand and political sophistry, because the recognition of a Palestinian state should be reciprocal.

'Abbas also stressed that the PLO accepts the return of the Palestinian deportees according to a timetable, but this should be within the framework of implementing Resolution 799. He also noted that there is a six-point agreement which calls for, in one of its points, returning a number of Palestinians who were deported after 1967. [passage omitted]

PLO, Hamas Discuss Israeli Withdrawal From Gaza

JN1303090093 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Mar 93 pp 1, 5

[By Maryam M. Shahin, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas last week discussed a unilateral Israeli pullout from the occupied Gaza Strip, Hamas officials said Friday [12 March].

"We discussed the possibility of an Israeli pullout from the Gaza Strip," Muhammad Nazzal, the Hamas representative in Jordan, told the Jordan Times Friday.

While Mr. Nazzal and senior PLO officials in Tunis both confirmed that "no Israeli offer of a pullout from Gaza has been made," the possibility of such an eventuality has recently gained more voice in Israeli political circles.

PLO officials would not go on the record to confirm that they had discussions with Hamas on a possible Israeli pullout from Gaza. There seemed to be different versions of whether Israel was ready for such a pullout and if so what such a withdrawal would entail and how it would come about.

According to Hamas officials, however, an Egyptian-backed proposal envisages an Israeli unilateral pullout from Gaza and dismantlement of the Israeli settlements on the coastal strip.

According to the Egyptian plan Palestinian police force would then take over from the Israeli occupation forces, Hamas sources say.

"We did not say there was a proposal or a decision, we simply discussed the possibilities," said Mr. Nazzal.

Hamas, whose increasing visibility in diplomatic crisis has angered the PLO, says that it opposes such a proposal.

"We would prefer if U.N. peacekeeping troops moved into the Gaza Strip and monitored elections and then the U.N. would move out," said Mr. Nazzal.

If elections were held in Gaza, Mr. Nazzal claimed, 40 per cent of the votes would go to Hamas. "Some of our people in the occupied territories say it would even be more than 40 per cent; they say we would receive the majority of the votes, would like to have elections and see what our true strength on the street is."

Mr. Nazzal had been meeting with Amman-based PLO official 'Abbas Zaki and 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) office to discuss "concerted actions vis-a-vis this issue of withdrawal."

Mr. Zaki and Mr. Malluh were out of the country Friday and were unavailable for comments.

But PLO officials in Tunis voice amazement at the Hamas statements, say that it was "much too early to speak of proposals which have not officially been made."

"The PLO has not received any Israeli, Arab or American offer which would indicate that the Israelis were willing to withdraw from Palestinian lands in Gaza or elsewhere," said a senior advisor to Yasir 'Arafat, Mamduh Nawfal.

"This issue (of withdrawal from Gaza) may be brought up at the next round of talks and maybe the Israelis will make a previously unknown proposal," he said.

"We will consider any Israeli withdrawal a sign that the liberation of our land has begun and we will bear the responsibility of governing any land that has been liberated," Mr. Nawfal said.

The United Nations and the Arab countries will also have "their responsibilities to live up to in case of an Israeli withdrawal," he added.

PLO officials were careful not to say that no proposal had been made. They only stressed that no "official" proposal had been made to them.

"There is absolutely no official proposal of the sort," said another PLO official in Tunis, speaking to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

The official confirmed that "Gaza will probably be the easiest part of Palestine to liberate" and that the PLO would consider moving its people and temporary headquarters to the parts of Palestine that were liberated at the initial stages of the negotiations."

Palestinian analysts in Amman feared that an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza would ignite a power struggle between the PLO and Hamas in the poor and overpopulated strip and that the declaration of a Palestinian state in Gaza would occur.

"If there is a withdrawal from Gaza outside the framework of an overall Palestinian-Israeli agreement then we will be cantonising Palestinian lands similar to the way the proposal for Bosnian Muslim lands is a form of cantonisation," said a veteran Palestinian analyst in Jordan.

"The withdrawal from Gaza, which I suspect will occur, can leave a power vacuum if the PLO does not move in lock, stock and barrel in an organised and efficient manner," said the analyst.

Declaring a Palestinian state, which PLO officials insist will not occur in Gaza but "in Jerusalem," would effectively negate the possibility of declaring a state in the West Bank or East Jerusalem, Palestinian analysts say.

Whether by announcing the discussion of the talks Hamas wants to emphasise its growing role in Palestinian politics or divert attention from other issues is not clear, PLO officials say.

"Instead of concentrating on the expellees or studing the six-point plan of the Americans, they are discussing proposals which are not yet on the table," Mr. Nawfal said.

But Hamas appears to moving forward with its public relations campaign both in Europe and in the Arab World.

After announcing that they had met Chinese and Spanish diplomats last week, Hamas issued an official statement Friday thanking a senior Saudi Arabian clergyman for his support of Palestiian causes.

Addressing the statement to 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Baz, a senior Saudi cleric who has government backing, Hamas thanked the Shaykh for his statements of support.

While the supposed statement by Shaykh Bin-Baz was not available to the Jordan Times, the Hamas statement claimed that he urged all "Muslims to support Palestinians by financing them and offering both arms and men to their disposal."

The cleric had apparently called on all Arab governments to take a united stand on the issue of expellees and had pledged his support.

"We will extend our support and our money to the Palestinians," the Hamas statement quoted Shaykh Bin-Baz as saying.

No mention was apparently made in the statement about the PLO. The cleric is thought to have been giving "mixed" signals to the Palestinians, Palestinian analysts say.

"Saudi Arabia and some Gulf countries had been giving special attention and dues to Hamas even before the Gulf war; now its a way to tease the PLO," said an analyst. PLO relations with most Gulf countries plummeted after Palestinians openly opposed the U.S.-led alliance against Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

'Arafat Reportedly Stops Dialogue With Hamas

JN1503092393 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 15 Mar 93 pp 27, 34

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has decided to stop dialogue with representatives of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in protest against a statement issued against him in Hebron a few days ago. The decision was also prompted by a Hamas request to move the venue of the dialogue from Khartoum to Amman and to replace the Fatah delegation which comprises Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Colonel Nasr Yusuf, and 'Abd-al-'Aziz Shahin, with 'Abbas Zaki and Khalid Mismar, on the pretext of upgrading representation.

A statement distributed in occupied Hebron accused President 'Arafat of trying to swallow up Hamas and shirking serious action to lay the foundations of unity. Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman of Hamas, denied issuing the statement and said Hamas had no connection with it.

Palestinian sources in Amman said 'Abbas Zaki, secretary of the Higher Committee of the intifadah, was summoned to Tunis after the issuance of the statement and the positive report he had submitted about two sessions with Hamas representatives concluded in Amman last Monday [8 March].

The two sides have traded accusations of violating the Khartoum agreement, which stipulates a halt to media campaigns and maintaining a calm situation so as to begin initial steps for field coordination against the Zionist enemy in the occupied territories.

'Ashrawi on Conditions for Rejoining Negotiations

NC1303151593 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 10 Mar 93 p 2

[Telephone interview with Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, by AL-AHALI correspondent Ahmad Sayyid Hasan; date not given]

[Text] [Hasan] What do you think of Israel's reported intention to withdraw from the Gaza Strip?

['Ashrawi] It consists of mere statements to the media that are devoid of substance. No practical steps are being taken. The Israeli leaders are merely voicing their failure to continue occupying Gaza despite their continuous brutal repression of its citizens.

[Hasan] What results have your contacts with various international parties, most recently U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, produced? Are these contacts coordinated with the PLO?

['Ashrawi] Yes, certainly. We coordinate with the PLO before making any contacts. We submitted to the U.S.

secretary of state a Palestinian opinion on the resumption of the peace negotiations. It is based on six points:

- —Deportation is illegal; the UN Security Council resolution requiring the deportees' return must be implemented; all Palestinians deported since 1967 must be allowed to return; and Israel must not resort to the deportation policy in the future.
- —Real measures must be adopted to improve living conditions in the occupied territories, particularly in connection with human rights. The occupation authorities must halt their brutal acts of repression, detentions, house demolitions, and the closure of schools and universities.
- —There must be a commitment to the international points of reference for the peace talks, particularly UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and all other UN resolutions connected with the Palestinian issue.
- —The composition of the Palestinian delegation must be changed. It is not appropriate to continue with the former makeup of the delegation which was subject to Israel's opposition to the inclusion of certain people. We must have the right to name the delegation.
- —No unilateral step must be taken that can have an adverse effect on the negotiating process.
- —The United States, under the new administration, must continue to adhere to the letter of guarantees [damanat] we received from the Bush administration. That letter referred to the Palestinian people's political rights, the status of Jerusalem, and the inadmissibility of annexing territory by force. Secretary Christopher reaffirmed that letter and the U.S. commitment to it. This was a good step.

[Hasan] Apparently, therefore, you will join the next round of negotiations?

['Ashrawi] So far no date has been set for the next round and we have made no announcements on the matter. Still, we will not return to negotiations similar to the previous ones, which led nowhere. Constructive and encouraging steps must be taken and all the deportees must be allowed to return. Hence the ball is in the Israeli court.

[Hasan] Does Israel try to engage you in talks inside the occupied territories?

['Ashrawi] Yes, it makes continuous efforts in that direction but we do not respond. Discussions and negotiations must take place in their appropriate setting and in line with the negotiating conditions.

[Hasan] Does Rabin's government really want peace? Is this why it allowed the Knesset to pass a decision ending the ban on contacts with the PLO?

['Ashrawi] We are interested in deeds, not words. Repression is on the rise, we have seen the largest deportation ever during Rabin's term, and conditions are rapidly deteriorating in the occupied territories. This is why we submitted the six points as a condition for going to the negotiations.

[Hasan] Did you benefit from the Knesset's decision ending the ban on contacts with the PLO?

['Ashrawi] We never recognized the ban in the first place. It concerned the Israelis. We, the Palestinians, defied the ban and contacted and are continuing to contact the PLO leadership. We are coordinating with it in its capacity as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative. A Palestinian delegation will leave for Tunisia in the next few days to meet with the PLO leadership to discuss future arrangements.

Qaddumi Reportedly Fails To Secure Syrian Support

NC1403110493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Tunis, 14 Mar (MENA)—The Tunisian newspaper AL-SHURUQ said today that Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, has failed to convince the Arab sides participating in the bilateral peace talks with Israel to adopt the six Palestinian points presented to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during his visit to Jerusalem in February.

The source cited responsible Palestinian sources in Amman as saying that Qaddumi failed to convince Syria to adopt the six points as an Arab condition for resuming the negotiations, scheduled to be held in Washington 20 April.

The source added that the objective of Qaddumi's visit to Damascus last week was to secure a promise that the meeting of the cordon states foreign ministers would be held before Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to Washington and meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton. Qaddumi also failed to do this, and the Syrians set the date for the meeting for 28 March.

AL-SHURUQ noted that Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' promised Qaddumi that the Syrian side would discuss the six points with the U.S. Administration and support them politically. However, al-Shar' refused to commit himself to turning this into a Syrian condition for resuming the talks.

Citing Palestinian sources in Jordan, AL-SHURUQ said that Qaddumi officially asked Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir during their meeting in Amman yesterday to support the Palestinian stand by suspending Jordanian participation in the coming round.

The sources said Qaddumi sensed a certain Jordanian understanding for the Palestinian stand. However, Qaddumi did not get a Jordanian promise that Jordan would not go to the ninth round of talks to support the Palestinian stand. Jordanian officials merely said it is still early to make a decisive and final stand on whether to attend the ninth round of peace talks.

PLO Disavows Hurani Remarks on Russia

PM1503142793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Mar 93 p 2

[Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi report: "PLO Distances Itself From Hurani's Statements"]

[Text] Tunis—The PLO has distanced itself from the statements made recently by PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani about Russia's role in the peace negotiations. It said in a statement issued in Tunis yesterday that these statements "do not represent its opinion."

The PLO expressed its desire for the continuation of the role Russia is playing in the peace process. This statement comes in reply to Hurani's statements to the Tunisian newspaper AL-BAYAN published last Monday [8 March]. They included severe criticisms of Russia's role in the peace process, which he described as "subservient to the United States."

Palestinian sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that last Tuesday Russian Ambassador in Tunis Boris Shchiborin handed 'Arafat a strongly-worded message in protest at these statements, demanding that the PLO issue a statement containing an apology. The message said that "Hurani's statements disapprove of the independence of the Russian position and cast doubt on Russia's position and standing in the peace process."

Invitation Rejection Said 'Clearest Signal' to U.S.

JN1303095693 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Mar 93 pp 1, 5

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sana' 'Atiyah]

[Text] Amman—The Palestinian rejection of the joint U.S. and Russian invitation to the ninth round of Mideast peace talks is the clearest signal that the Palestinian leadership is firm about boycotting the next round unless some of their demands, which came in six points discussed with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Jerusalem, are met.

The Palestinians had apparently hoped for more time before the invitations were delivered to resolve some issues they view as obstacles to achieving any progress in their bilateral negotiations with Israel.

Palestinian officials, who described the issuance of the invitations to the talks in Washington in April 20 as premature, said Washington was apparently trying to pressure the Palestinians into attending the negotiations without receiving substantive Israeli concessions on its Dec. 17 expulsion of more than 400 Palestinians.

"Issuing the invitations at this time, accompanied by Christopher's statements about being encouraged by the Syrians to resume the talks, is obviously to pressure us into attending the talks without receiving our minimal demands," a Palestinian official told the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

By ignoring Palestinian demands and issuing the invitations at this time, Palestinian insiders speculate that the U.S. was reacting to a "strongly-worded" letter it recently received from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) over U.S. diplomatic contacts with the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, at a time when the U.S. refused to resume its suspended dialogue with the PLO.

Palestinian analysts, however, said that the invitations had to be issued before Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to Washington, which started Thursday [11 March], so as not to "appear as if the date was set by Israel and the U.S."

Palestinian insiders also criticised what they saw as a hasty rejection of the invitation, a decision said to have been taken unilaterally by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat without consulting neither his advisors nor his peace delegates. Palestinian delegates in Jerusalem Wednesday refused to accept the invitation, and returned it to the consular's desk.

But Palestinian officials, unable to predict what developments are expected to take place before April 20 that might affect their decision on whether to participate in the bilaterals, insisted that the Palestinian leadership was firm against attending the talks under the current conditions without achieving any of their demands.

In six points presented to Mr. Christopher during his recent Mideast tour, Palestinian leaders demanded a U.S. declaration that Israeli expulsions are illegal and a new American letter of assurances confirming the Madrid terms of reference of the peace negotiations, i.e. that the basis of the talks in both phases (the interim and final) are resolutions 242 and 338—an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem. While Palestinians said that these points were initially (and verbally) approved by Mr. Christopher in Jerusalem, the Americans retracted their position after Israel's rejection of the demands.

The rest of the points include an Israeli commitment to the following:

—A commitment to end further expulsions of Palestinians;

—An acceleration of implementing Resolution 799, calling on Israel's immediate and unconditional return of the evictees, and agree to a schedule repatriation of the 400 stranded Palestinian men;

—To agree to return a "sizeable" number of Palestinians expelled from the occupied territories since 1967;

—To stop its violations of human rights against the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Salih Ra'fat, an Amman-based PLO official, told the Jordan Times that contacts with the U.S. were ongoing and that a Palestinian delegation was expected to visit Washington to discuss the pending issues with State Department officials, but that no date had been set.

Mr. Ra'fat also said that the PLO had rejected an American draft letter of assurances on the terms of reference of the negotiations because the U.S. had not included Jerusalem as part of 242. The letter was in response of a Palestinian demand for American reassurances of the terms of refernce of the talks.

The official, a senior member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP)—Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh's wing—insisted that the PLO would not yield to pressure to send its delegation to the talks if their minimal demands were not met.

"We simply will not go even if the rest of the Arab parties did," Mr. Ra'fat stressed. "Everyone knows that there cannot be a solution to the Middle East conflict unless substantive issues are resolved on the Palestinian track."

But Mr. Christopher's statement that he was sure of Palestinian participation in the ninth round of talks indicated that either Palestinian signals were delivered to Washington that the PLO was ready to consider sending its peace delegatation, or that the pressure on the Palestinians would be so great they would have to participate, analysts said.

Palestinians have already started to come under pressure since Wednesday's invitations were issued. While all the Arab parties said they would make their position to the April talks known after a coordination meeting in Damascus at the end of this month, Syria and Lebanon have already indicated their willingness to resume the talks with Israel.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, PLO officials said that the head of the organisation's political department, Faruq Qaddumi, failed to convince Syrian Foriegn Minsiter Faruq al-Shar' to hold a foreign ministers meeting of Arab parties involved in the peace talks during the Holy Month of Ramadan. Seen by Palestinians as a delaying tactic, Syria set the coordination meeting after Ramadan and the feast holidays. But instead of gathering Arab support for their position at that meeting, the PLO might find itself cornered to accept participation.

'Arafat Adviser on U.S., Peace Talks

NC1403092593 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Telephone interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, in London, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo, carried on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Bassam Abu-Sharif, we welcome you on Voice of the Arabs.

[Abu-Sharif] Thank you.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] In light of the developments the peace process is going through, the preparations to resume the coming round of peace talks, and the Palestinian stand with regard to this round, could we learn about the latest developments and Palestinian stands?

[Abu-Sharif] The Palestinians under the leadership of the PLO were from the very beginning, and continue to be, constructive as regards the peace process and pushing it forward. However, unfortunately, as a result of the belligerent Israeli Government stands that constantly violate Security Council resolutions, the continuation of the negotiations has become difficult. This will remain true unless the Israeli Government changes its stands on the legitimate international resolutions and the Palestinian peoples human rights. We, the PLO, have clearly said we will not go to the ninth round of talks unless Israel accepts the six points Warren Christopher proposed.

As long as Israel does not accept these six points, which constitute a basic minimum and which the PLO has welcomed previously, it is difficult, almost impossible, for the PLO to attend the negotiations. However, I would like to immediately add that contacts to resolve this issue continue.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Could we say there are positive indications that the Palestinian delegation will participate?

[Abu-Sharif] We have clearly said that if the Israeli Government accepts the six American points, the Palestinians will attend the negotiations.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] The peace process has come up against a belligerent Israeli stand and no-progress on the course of the Palestinian-Israeli talks. To what extent could this situation be avoided in the future?

[Abu-Sharif] I hold the U.S. Administration responsible. The U.S. Administration has influence over the Security Council and the Israeli Government. Unfortunately, we do not see the new U.S. Administration applying one standard on dealing with and implementing Security Council resolutions.

In addition, what is harming the negotiating atmosphere and the peace process in general is the new U.S. Administration's insistence on keeping relations between it and the PLO frozen. This policy cannot be justified by any logical reason except that there is a campaign against the PLO and a bias toward the Israeli Government.

Allow me to say here that Warren Christopher made a grave error when he discounted Palestinian legitimacy. President Yasir 'Arafat is the unopposed leader of the Palestinian people. He is unanimously elected by the representatives of the Palestinian people. We do not allow anyone, be it Warren Christopher or Bill Clinton, to interfere in Palestinian democratic opinion.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] In light of these Arab stands, Palestinian action, and the Palestinian delegation's suspension of participation in the bilateral peace talks, how do you see the importance of Arab action in this stage?

[Abu-Sharif] As an organization, we have held and continue to hold contacts on all levels: Arab, international, European, nonaligned, and Islamic. Contacts continue even with the U.S. Administration through our negotiating delegation or through other channels via third parties. We are constructive and want the peace process to continue; however, we did not go to the peace process from a position of weakness. We went from a position of power. It seems that Christopher has so far not understood our messages to him: We will resist the occupation and step up our resistance. We are not terrorists. If Christopher wants to take a stand on terrorists, he should first take a stand on the Israeli occupation forces who fire shots at a daily basis at our people, use bloody terrorism against them, and besiege the entire Gaza Strip and West Bank.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] In light of the Palestinian and Arab contacts to coordinate stands regarding participation or non-participation in the coming round, state of Palestine president 'Arafat will be visiting Cairo to meet his brother President Mubarak before Mubarak's visit to Washington. How do you view this fraternal meeting and its importance?

[Abu-Sharif] The role of Egypt and President Husni Mubarak have always been and will continue to be very important. President Mubarak's stand, which supports the rights of the Palestinian people and their just cause, is a firm and permanent stand. Egypt has great importance in the regional and international arenas. Therefore, President Mubarak is capable of exerting a positive effort to support the just demands of the Palestinian people and the PLO.

We believe that restoring PLO-U.S. relations is a necessary introduction to decrease the negative effect of the U.S. Administration's bias toward Israel. We only demand that Israel be committed to the U.S. points, not Palestinian points. This is the least we can ask for. We do not see any logical reason for not restoring contacts with the PLO. All we see is a bias toward the Israeli Government, paying the Israeli Government's bills when it is killing Palestinians in full view of the U.S. Administration. When Christopher was in Jerusalem, over seven Palestinians were killed by the occupation forces.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] What is the importance of the upcoming meeting of the cordon states [foreign ministers]?

[Abu-Sharif] This is a very important meeting. In fact, we are hoping for much more than this. The cordon states' meeting will draw out a united strategy and tactics for those Arab sides directly involved in the negotiations; the strategy and tactics to confront Israel's belligerence. However, during this holy month of Ramadan and the 'Id al-Fitr, we hope to take a bigger step forward—a step to restore solidarity to the Arab ranks, which has been shaken a great deal since the Gulf war. In fact, we realize that the initiative should come from countries that can actually move Arab solidarity forward. King Fahd's efforts will be effective in uniting the Arabs to a minimum standard, thus allowing them to throw some Arab weight on the U.S. Administration so that we can confront Israeli stalling, belligerence, and continuous terrorism.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] While with you over this open phone line between Cairo and the British capital, London, we thank you sincerely and welcome you always on the airwaves of the Voice of the Arabs.

[Abu-Sharif] I thank you, Ashraf.

Unified Arab Stand Urged To Counter Israel

LD1203210593 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] An authoritative Palestinian source has affirmed that the PLO is still waiting for replies and clarifications from the United States on the issues raised by the Palestinian delegation with the U.S. secretary of state during their talks in Jerusalem on the prerequisites for resumption of the peace talks. The source pointed out that the Palestinian decision not to receive the invitation to attend the bilateral and multilateral negotiations was made in order to highlight the need to meet the principal demands which have been sent to the U.S. Administration in order to resume the peace process and to make it successful.

The source affirmed following last night's meeting of the Palestinian leadership that the United States has not made any effort to meet such demands nor has it brought any pressure to bear on Israel in order to secure the latter's respect for international legitimacy and the peace process' terms of reference and aims.

The authoritative source added that a number of ideas were examined during the talks between the Palestinian delegation and the U.S. secretary of state; they culminated in a six-point agreement from which Israel later retracted. The source affirmed that while the PLO leadership would like to reconfirm its commitment to the aims of the peace process and its commitment to take part in any true and serious negotiations, based on international legitimacy—the basis for the peace process—it would also like to reiterate that the mounting crimes and human right abuses by Israel in occupied Palestinian territories, as well as its refusal to implement Security Council Resolution 799 on the mass return of deportees to the homeland, its rejection of the terms of reference of the peace process and its aims, and Israel's attempts to exclude Holy Jerusalem from the talks, constitute fundamental obstacles which have made it impossible to resume the negotiations within the framework of the current circumstances.

The source further pointed out that the PLO will tirelessly continue its contacts with Arab parties in order to crystallize a unified Arab stand to counter Israel's attempts to exclude Jerusalem from the talks and deal a blow to the resolutions of international legitimacy, and to consolidate Arab coordination in a way which would thwart Israel's attempt to deal with every Arab side in isolation.

'Joint Arab Decision' Urged Against U.S. 'Pressure'

LD1203231393 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher refuses to acknowledge the possibility of the Palestinians rejecting the current invitation to take part in the ninth round of negotiations. The reality however is that our negotiating delegation actually refused to accept this invitation two days ago, affirming a number of points. The most important of these are the need to receive an American reply to some clarifications which we put forward concerning the deportees, the question of Jerusalem, the peace process points of reference.

The United States and Russia, the two co-chairmen of the conference, had jumped these clarification points. They sent out invitations to all the sides concerned in the ninth round and they fixed its date for the period between 20 April and 6 May in Washington.

American pressure on our Palestinian side emerged clearly by besieging us inside the formula of a fait accompli especially when the rest of the Arab sides appear to be agreeing to accepting this invitation even though they have not declared this officially until now.

It is clear that confronting this American pressure cannot just be effected by the Palestinian side only. Therefore, there inevitably must be a need for a joint Arab decision on this matter. Although the negative indicators are predominant in the Arab side for the time being at least, the fact that no Arab government of the cordon states has declared its official acceptance of the invitation which has been sent to them, opens the way toward positive indicators however small they may be in the next few days to bring about a unified Arab/Palestinian stance on the question of participating or not participating in the ninth round.

We are expecting Arab pressure to counter the American pressure with regard to the clarification needed by the Palestinians on the points they have put forward. We are trying to convince ourselves of a forthcoming Arab pressure before we plunge ourselves in climates of pessimism and dismiss any confusion in the Arab position.

Rejection of Invitation To Resume Talks Viewed

LD1303022993 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers, the Palestinian rejection of the invitation issued by the United States and Russia to resume peace negotiations on 20 April was not sudden or strange, especially since the Palestinian reaction is in harmony with the numerous official Palestinian stands which have been taken since the end of the eighth round of bilateral negotiations in Washington. The first of these stands was the suspension of participation in the two versions of negotiations until the issue of the Palestinian deportees is resolved and the demands which stressed the need for Israel to respect, for points of reference in the peace process, in particular, UN Security Council Resolution 242, as well as human rights in the occupied territories.

The Palestinian reply emerged as a natural expression and a clear reply to the disregard shown toward these positions. The Palestinian stance does not constitute a rejection of peace negotiations or an initial rejection of the resumption of negotiations.

The Palestinian side repeatedly affirmed its adherence to the peace process and to its continuation, particularly since the Palestinian people are the side which has been harmed most and which had suffered most as a result of the current conditions.

Consequently, the Palestinian side is the one which most desires that the peace negotiations make basic progress leading to change in these conditions.

The realization of progress and earnest strides toward peace is not just an empty slogan but an expression of the content of such a slogan. This content cannot become an embodiment merely by fixing the date for the negotiations. It can be realized by providing the conditions which lead to success and progress and to tackling the other questions which are linked to the terms of reference for the peace process.

A quick reexamination of developments which have taken place in this connection since the end of the eighth round of negotiations confirm that there have been no changes toward this end. This strengthens the doubt that continuing with the same mechanism will not lead to different results from what we have already seen.

This is one side. On the other, the two cochairmen of the negotiations, by ignoring the nature of the stalemate which Israel has created for the sides taking part in the peace process and particularly the Palestinian side by deporting hundreds of sons of our people through an unprecedented measure and by ignoring the continuing deterioration of the situation in the occupied areas—this indifference also strengthens doubts over the earnestness of the approach of the two sponsors in terms of adopting the UN Security Council resolutions as a basis for the peace process.

If the Palestinian question forms the heart of the Arab-Israeli conflict, its solution would constitute the essential basis for achieving peace in this area. We can never imagine that any step which ignores the Palestinian position and the real obstacles to which the Palestinian side had been demanding a solution before the resumption of negotiations will lead to serving the peace process.

The two cochairmen realize that the Palestinian position has not emerged from a vacuum and that the Palestinian side is not able to ignore issues which concern the destiny and future of the Palestinians under the slogan of resuming negotiations and seizing the opportunity.

In our opinion, the real opportunity for progress toward peace today requires intensified efforts by the United States and Russia to solve the existing obstacle so that the negotiations can be resumed and so that Palestinians can actually feel that there is a real opportunity which must be seized and not just slogans which lack any content that serves their issue and interests.

'Arafat Said To Dismiss PLO Envoy to Sudan

JN1403184093 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 10 Mar 93 p 26

[By Muhammad al-Fatih]

[Text] Khartoum—AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the PLO has discharged 'Umar Shalayil, alias Abu-Raja'i, PLO ambassador in Khartoum, and ordered him to travel to PLO headquarters in Tunis for interrogation. AL-ITTIHAD has also learned that Abu-Raja'i left Khartoum for Tunis.

Informed sources in Khartoum said that Abu-Raja'i was discharged during the visit to Khartoum last week by Yasir 'Arafat. Eyewitnesses said that 'Arafat was furious in his talk with Abu-Raja'i at Khartoum airport and while they were on their way to 'Arafat's residence. The sources said that 'Arafat has monitored several financial and political violations by his ambassador in Khartoum.

Algeria

Senior Official Seriously Wounded in Armed Attack

LD1403200793 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Hafid Hacen Hadri, principal private secretary of the Minister of Vocational Training, suffered serious injuries this morning when shots were fired at him by unidentified persons who escaped after the incident. At the time of the attack, Hacen Hadri was coming out of his house in the Garidi district of Algiers.

It is worth noting that Hacen Hadri has occupied many senior positions in the Ministries of Housing and National Education, and was the first chairman of the National Association of Public Service Employees. He is a member of the Consultative Council and a founding member of the National Committee for the Defense of Algeria.

There is no doubt that the attack on Hacen Hadri was essentially aimed at an official of the nation who did not hesitate to take a courageous stance to defend a threatened Algeria and was committed to the values of the November 1954 revolution.

Trial of Terrorists Resumes in Algiers

LD1303142393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] The trial of the Emir Noh group resumed today at the Algiers special court. The group is made up of 51 defendants, 11 of whom are still fugitives. Hamza Wahib, who is on the scene, followed this morning's session:

[Begin Wahib recording] This morning's session was marked by the reappointment of the original defense lawyers, despite their withdrawal from the case at the last session in protest over their inability to examine the files within the legal time. The decision to reappoint these lawyers came at the request of the National Union of Lawyers.

The president of the court read out to the main defendant, Allam Noureddine—alias Emir Noh—the charges against him. These charges are: premeditated murder, aggravated theft, kidnapping, burglary at the barracks of Blida, El Kolea, and Boudouaou, and the theft of explosives in the province of Jijel.

The defendant Allam denied the charges and declared that he had nothing to do with them. He admitted his participation in the affair at the Blida barracks. He pointed out, in this regard, that he had entered the barracks only once and stayed for 24 hours. When asked by the president of the court about the reason, Allam replied that he had entered the barracks to receive military training with a goal of going to Jerusalem.

The president of the court intervened and told the defendant that he had already confessed before the examining magistrate to all the charges—namely murder, kidnapping, and theft. The defendant denied these charges again and indicated that he had never made such statements. The president of the court then replied: If this is not true, why did you not initiate procedures to check whether there was any case of forgery? He added that since he did not take such an action, that meant that the statement was valid and true.

Mr. Khalil, the lawyer representing the defendant, intervened and told the president of the court that he had appealed the entire investigation, and he presented a document that he said invalidates all the procedures of the inquiry. Upon the insistence of the defendant, the president of the court was obliged to read out the first minutes written before the examining magistrate on 26 March 1991. In these minutes, the defendant, Allam Noureddine, had confessed to all the charges.

The trial is continuing at this very moment, and we will provide you with more details in the next bulletin. From the Algiers Court, Hamza Wahib. [end recording]

It is worth mentioning that the trial had been adjourned last Tuesday following the withdrawal of the defense lawyers. Their argument was that they had noticed on the defendants marks consistent with torture. Their decision was also made following the judge's rejection of their request to postpone the trial. As a result of this withdrawal, the court was obliged to adjourn the trial.

Egypt

Mubarak To Meet al-Asad; Comments on Sudan, Iran

NC1503091193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0717 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 15 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has announced that he will meet Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad after the 'Id holiday [around 23-26 March] and before he leaves for the United States.

He said he and President al-Asad will discuss developments in the Palestine question, the resumption of the peace negotiations, the deportees, and various Arab and international issues.

In an exclusive statement to the weekly MAYU, which is published today, President Mubarak said Egypt holds contacts with all the parties concerned to discuss resuming the peace talks.

My advice to all parties, he said, is that they must continue the peace process and refrain from withdrawal from the talks, because it is through dialogue that an agreement or solution can be reached. He said meetings among the parties concerned can solve all international problems.

President Mubarak said he will not restore relations with Iran now, because Iran nourishes and supports terrorism.

I can never gamble when it comes to the country; my mission is to preserve my people and protect their lives and property, he said.

On Egypt's relations with Sudan, President Mubarak said: I will not fight the people of Sudan. It is enough for me to say that the Sudanese Government is the loser in the closure of the Cairo University Khartoum branch.

The president explained that Egypt spends 22 million pounds on the university a year. Added to the 12 million pounds spent on the Egyptian education mission in Sudan, he said, that makes 34 million pounds spent to educate the Sudanese people in appreciation of their eternal, historic relationship with the people of Egypt.

On terrorist acts in Egypt, President Mubarak said waves of terrorism will recede, because the entire people confront them. What is happening now, he added, is nothing more than routine acts, like those in various places, such as London, Paris, and Tokyo.

The president discussed the new amendments to the bank law, saying that they guarantee depositors' rights. He said the Central Bank now has full authority and controls everything.

Sudan Troop Movements Noted; Iran Said To Back Sudan

NC1303150193 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1431 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Mar (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Under the banner headline "Sudanese Military Movements Close to the Egyptian Borders," the opposition paper AL-WAFD, mouthpiece of the New Wafd party, reports the following in today's morning edition:

The past three days have witnessed Sudanese military movements close to Egypt's borders in the Port Sudan region. The movements were monitored in the wake of sudden tension in Egyptian-Sudanese relations. Sudanese opposition sources have asserted that the ruling military regime in Sudan has deceived public opinion and tried to convince the Sudanese people of the alleged Egyptian occupation of Sudanese territories, in full contradiction of existing reality. The sources estimate the number of armed troops recently moved by al-Bashir's regime to the areas adjacent to the Egyptian borders at approximately 3,000 troops from various branches of the Armed Forces.

The sources also revealed that the Sudanese regime has received an Iranian pledge to back it in case Sudan is subjected to Egyptian military aggression.

In another development, Sudanese Ambassador to Egypt 'Izz-al-Din Hamid has called on his government to send a high-ranking envoy to Cairo as soon as possible to contain the present crisis. Meanwhile, Egypt has mobilized all mediation efforts to reconcile views between Cairo and Khartoum. An Egyptian diplomat has asserted that the Sudanese regime has wasted all chances of proving its goodwill because of al-Bashir's insistence on harming and undermining bilateral relations.

Musa Regrets Sudan's Closure of University

NC1303163193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Egyptian-Sudanese relations are currently tense as a result of recent Sudanese measures. Referring to Sudan's abolition of Cairo University's Khartoum branch, he said that this measure disregards the Egyptian role in propagating learning and education in Sudan and providing higher education for Sudanese youth.

Musa pointed out that Egypt had been covering the university's operational costs. He regretted the action by Sudan and said it should have allowed the Egyptian educational services to continue.

Consultative Council on Mubarak Sudan Statements

NC1403072193 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] During a meeting yesterday, the Consultative Council's Arab, Foreign Affairs and National Security Committee rejected and condemned the recent Sudanese Government's takeover of Cairo University's Khartoum branch. The committee met under the chairmanship of Dr. Mufid Shihab. The committee members confirmed that the Sudanese people are the primary victims of the government's measures. They noted their total rejection of the unacceptable justifications the Sudanese regime is using to Sudanize education in Sudan.

The committee members also asserted their full solidarity with statements by President Husni Mubarak that Egypt will not show any leniency on any measure the Sudanese regime might take that affects Egyptian national security. This is true regardless of whether the Sudanese Government takes this measure on its own or through the incitement of foreign powers.

Parliamentary Committee Issues Statement on Sudan

NC1503150893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] The People's Assembly Foreign Relations Committee, chaired by Dr. Muhammad 'Abdallah, issued a statement today on recent Egyptian-Sudanese developments. The statement said that the recent escalation illustrated by the Sudanese Government's decision to seize Cairo University's Khartoum Branch is a provocative measure that will harm the relationship between the two fraternal nations, does not serve the interests of the fraternal Sudanese people, and contravenes their hopes for progress.

The committee added: The Sudanese Government recently has grown accustomed to provoking problems for nonobjective aims that are inharmonious with the relations between the two countries.

Musa on Message to Christopher, Nonproliferation

NC1303155993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the message he sent to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher deals with the ways to ensure quick activation of the peace process and removal of obstacles facing it, such as the deportees issue. Musa affirmed that Egypt is of the opinion that the principle of deportation should be dropped and efforts made to create an atmosphere conducive to the peace process. He said that the six-point proposal made by the U.S. secretary of state is still on the agenda.

In a statement today, Foreign Minister Musa said that the ministerial meeting of the five Arab states concerned with the peace process will take place on 28 March in accordance with the agreement reached with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Answering a question about North Korea's withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, Musa said that this decision has led to intensive international contacts both in New York and Vienna. Egypt, he said, is following up this issue out of its interest in the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and in view of its relations with North Korea.

Asked whether this withdrawal will weaken the treaty, the foreign minister said that of course the withdrawal of any country will have that effect. He said that Egypt hopes all states will join the treaty; failure to do so will weaken it.

Regarding the events in India, Musa said that the situation there is regrettable.

Egyptian-Syrian Memorandum Sent to Christopher

NC1303070393 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 13 Mar 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Cairo's AL-AHRAM newspaper reports that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher yesterday received an Egyptian-Syrian memorandum concerning the proposals drafted during Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's talks with Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar' in Cairo the day before yesterday. The proposals focus on ways to resolve the Palestinian deportees problem and the importance of making progress in the ninth round of Arab-Israeli talks, scheduled to be held on 20 April in Washington.

Clinton-Rabin Meeting Said To Affect Peace

NC1503084593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0703 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 15 Mar (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH expresses hope that the Middle East issue will take priority in the talks between President Bill Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

In its editorial today, the Cairo-based paper says that all eyes are on Washington and there is hope the Clinton-Rabin meeting will be a step toward the just peace for which peoples have waited long.

It adds that the issue of the Palestinian deportees, expelled by Israel from their homes, is one reason the Clinton administration hastened to open the Middle East file, because the issue has cast its shadow on efforts to reach a settlement and on negotiations in Washington. It then says that the Clinton-Rabin meeting will cast its own shadow and will affect many aspects of the Middle East issue, not only in the short term, but throughout the next four years and afterward.

PLO's Sha'th on Separate Israeli-Syrian Peace

NC1303082393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0733 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, left Cairo for Amman this morning. In a statement before departing, he said that he will join PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, who currently is in Amman, for talks with the Jordanian side on the Middle East peace process and the Palestinian deportees issue.

Sha'th said: Israel's attempt to reach a separate agreement with Syria does not worry us, because we eventually will reach a comprehensive solution with all the parties concerned. He noted that Syria is convinced of this position. He added: We view this as an Israeli attempt to create a rift between the Arab brothers. He pointed out that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat is expected to visit Egypt before 'Id al-Fitr [23 or 24 March] for talks with President Husni Mubarak on the latest developments in the regional situation.

'Chaos' Could Result From Israel's Gaza Pullout

NC1303104793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0715 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Mar (MENA)—AL-AHRAM emphasizes that reports disseminated by the Yitzhaq Rabin-led Israeli Government—that there is a general trend in Israel calling for withdrawing from the Gaza Strip—seek to cast the regional and world communities into a new labyrinth to distract them from the prerequisites of the peace talks, following the relative lull in the deportees crisis.

In its commentary today, the paper described these reports as an absurd trick because an occupying country cannot pull out of occupied territory by a unilateral initiative, thus relinquishing its responsibilities before the world community. The paper notes that Israel, which is a UN member state, cannot disregard the United Nations, which is entrusted with supervising any change in the status of occupied territories.

The paper concludes by saying that such an initiative to withdraw from Gaza without interim arrangements would result in chaos, which could endanger peace and stability in the region. The Security Council, which has jurisdiction over this matter, should name the party responsible for it and punish it.

Increased Security Implemented at Libyan Border

NC1403153793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1452 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Alexandria, 14 Mar (MENA)—An Alexandria security official has announced a comprehensive plan to control al-Sallum land crossing and the little known dirt tracks in the Western Desert used as routes by terrorist groups planning attacks against the country's vital installations to undermine security and stability.

He added that the security forces have doubled the number of antiterrorist squads on the al-Sallum road linking Egypt and Libya and provided them with sophisticated equipment to search vehicles and passengers for suspect individuals and groups. These measures follow recent incidents in Egypt and come in the wake of information received by Egyptian security forces proving that the Sudanese military regime and Iran are involved in training, assisting, and financing terrorists who carry out attacks on foreign tourists.

Security authorities carried out a major search and surveillance operation over the past 48 hours, intensifying their raids and imposing total control over al-Sallum land crossing with particular attention paid to Sudanese arriving via Libya.

The security official added that the security forces detained Sudanese nationals carrying Sudanese passports arriving from Libya, interrogated them, and returned them to their country.

He reported that Egyptian and Libyan authorities are making intensive secret contacts to draw up a plan of surveillance that will include searching suspects and wanted individuals. A list of suspects has been given to the Libyan security authorities.

In another development, other security officials in Alexandria have stated that Israel submitted an official request to the Egyptian Government to increase the number of guards at the Israeli Embassy in Cairo and its consulate in Alexandria to guard against possible attacks.

Students Protesting Teacher's Transfer Arrested

NC1403073393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2246 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Banha, 13 Mar (MENA)—Security agencies today arrested 13 people, including 11 male and female students, for causing disturbances and setting fire to the guest house of Ibil Church, Qalyub, in the Delta. Those arrested were protesting the transfer of a female teacher in Qalyub's secondary school to Upper Egypt after she played cassettes in her classroom calling for extremism and the persecution of Christians.

During the rioting, in which a number of outlaws took part, an officer and three policemen received minor wounds. They were taken to Qalyub General Hospital for treatment. The rioters also burned the officer's car.

A responsible security source denied reports about imposing a curfew on Qalyub City after the disturbances. He said police forces are in full control of the situation and that there has been no loss of life.

The Al-Qalyubiyah Prosecution Office has begun to interrogate the detainees to determine their criminal responsibility.

Fifty-two Injured, 87 Arrested

NC1403144793 Paris AFP in English 1406 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, March 14 (AFP)—Fifty-two people were hurt and 87 arrested Sunday [14 March] when police and residents clashed north of the Egyptian capital after men on a mosque rooftop firebombed a neighboring church, police said.

Fighting broke out when police sealed off Qalyub, about 40 kilometers (22 miles) north of here in the Nile delta, and conducted searches after suspected Muslim fundamentalists burned part of a Protestant church, police said.

Seven residents were hurt seriously in the clashes, 11 policemen were injured by firebombs and stones, and 87 people were arrested, including workers and students, according to police. A police vehicle parked at the scene was destroyed earlier when the church was firebombed, police said. The violence came less than a week after 22 people were killed in Cairo and southern Egypt.

The firebombing occurred a few hours after students protested in Qalyub against Education Minister Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din, who had transferred a teacher and expelled three female students from a local high school. They had reportedly distributed a cassette inciting violence between Muslims and Coptic Christians.

The minister said the decision could not be appealed, but an official who requested anonymity said the minister would meet later Sunday with the three schoolgirls to discuss the cassette incident.

Violent clashes broke out two weeks ago in Qalyub, which has about 200,000 residents.

Meanwhile, the Coptic Christian newspaper WATANI (My Country) warned the government of President Husni Mubarak against taking a soft line on those who incite religious violence in Egypt.

It also accused the government of having initially done nothing against the fundamentalists "when they targetted only Copts." [passage omitted]

Interior Ministry Denies Clash, Curfew

NC1403162293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1604 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 Mar (MENA)—A security official at the Interior Ministry has asserted that the security situation in Qalyub, east of Cairo, is totally calm, that no clashes occurred today between the police and riot-provoking elements, and that life in the city is proceeding in a normal fashion.

In a statement to MENA, the official denied that a curfew had been imposed on the city last night following the riots in which some elements participated to protest the expulsion of four female students from Qalyub Secondary School for Girls and the transfer of their teacher to a school in Upper Egypt after they distributed a cassette inciting sectarian strife.

The city's prosecutors are continuing to interrogate around 30 male and female students detained in the recent incidents. Those who are discovered not to have been involved in the incidents are promptly released.

Minister Reinstates Dismissed Students

NC1403194193 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1908 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 Mar (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Education Minister Dr. Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din has issued a decision reinstating the four female students dismissed from the Qalyub Secondary School for Girls after accepting the petition they submitted on 3 March.

Following his meeting with the four female students today, the minister said the ministry's policy aims to confront all cases of extremism that appear in the schools and probe the motives behind them, taking into consideration the students' youth and their living and environmental conditions.

The minister added: Our decisions in this respect aim to correct rather than punish the students. Therefore, I decided to keep the students from attending classes for only 15 days. He added that he felt during his conversation with the students that they had drifted behind this current with goodwill. The students admitted the gravity of their mistake and promised not to repeat it. Their teacher also submitted a petition, which will be examined in view of her poor health.

Some demonstrations have been staged by Qalyub students in the past four days to protest the dismissal of the four female students.

Shaykh Urges Implementation of Shari'ah Rule

NC1403172593 Paris AFP in English 1654 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, March 14 (AFP)—Egypt's official religious authority said the country should start preparing to implement Islamic law, but he also backed the government's hard line on Muslim fundamentalists, press reports said Sunday [14 March].

Shaykh Jad-al-Haq 'Ali Jad-al-Haq, the imam of Al-Azhar and the world's highest Sunni Muslim authority, said at a seminar in Alexandria Saturday that Islamic theology [jurisprudence] should be taught in university law faculties.

Egypt "must start preparing" to apply the Shari'ah, Islamic law, he said, according to Egyptian press accounts.

But Shaykh Jad-al-Haq, who was appointed by the government, stressed that laws adopted in Egypt "do not contravene" the Shari'ah, which he says is "the main source" of the country's laws.

Much of Egypt's legal system is also rooted in French law.

Jad-al-Haq also praised the government's crackdown on Muslim extremists who are bent on toppling the secular government of President Husni Mubarak and on setting up an Islamic state.

"The government has not shut down any mosques in Egypt but it is preventing terrorists from using them to store weapons in a bid to destabilise the country," he said.

Security Tightened Around Threatened Cafe

NC1303162493 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1435 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Mar (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—The security organs are currently adopting tight security measures around al-Mashhad al-Husayni Square and Najib Mahfuz cafe. The areas of al-Jamaliyah and al-Azhar street have been searched thoroughly to capture suspects.

The state security investigation bureau had earlier received a threat from extremist groups that they would blow up Najib Mahfuz cafe on al-Husayni Square, which is frequented by foreign tourists who like to enjoy Ramadan evenings there. The threatening letter asserted that explosives will be thrown at the cafe when it is packed with clientele to cause the largest number of casualties; the same approach was used in the Wadi al-Nil cafe in early Ramadan. Explosives experts have searched the cafe and secured it.

Sudan

More Than 300 Troops of SPLA Surrender to Government

AB1403210693 Paris AFP in English 1948 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Khartoum, March 14 (AFP)—More than 300 troops of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) surrendered to a government garrison in Bentiu, on the White Nile River, the region's governor said Sunday [14 March].

Paul Reth Kwang, Bentiu's governor, cited by the official SUNA news agency, said the troops, who included an officer, complained of "an unstable situation that is deteriorating" in the SPLA ranks.

Since 1983, the SPLA has been fighting the Sudanese central government in the southern part of the country. Brigadier General 'Umar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir overthrew the civilian government in a military coup on June 30, 1989 and pledged himself to ending the civil war.

'Secret' Officers' Organization Said To Rule

PM1503112593 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 10-16 Mar 93 pp 30-31

[Unattributed report: "Sudan Governed by Secret Organization Consisting of 40 Officers"]

[Excerpts] The question repeatedly asked since the military coup and the emergence of the so-called "salvation revolution" in Sudan following the downfall of the democratic regime there is: Who rules Sudan—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, Dr. Hasan al-Turabi [National Islamic Front leader], or the Army? [passage omitted]

AL-MAJALLAH has conducted an extensive survey and inquiry and has interviewed a large number of opposition and government symbols as well as middle-of-the-road figures. Most of the testimonies obtained by AL-MAJALLAH confirm that Sudan is not ruled by al-Bashir alone or by al-Turabi and that a secret organization consisting of 40 officers of various ranks pulls the strings and is closest to the [National] Islamic Front [NIF].

What is that organization, how did it come about, and how did al-Turabi manage to ride its wave as he did many before it? It is a long and complex story. [passage omitted]

What is certain is that 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha, al-Turabi's deputy, was the man who planned the coup and he is responsible for relations between the NIF and the military.

Available information indicates that second-echelon officers and junior officers who are NIF members and sympathizers formed a semisecret closed organization consisting, at the command level, of 40 officers from the various corps, after sensing some NIF hesitation in the early days of the coup and becoming suspicious of the intentions of al-Bashir and his military group. That organization has become the real ruler and the effective decisionmaker not only in the army but in all walks of Sudanese life.

It has been established that that committee [as published], which is headed by Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, who has recently been appointed interior minister, is the real ruler of Sudan and is behind everything that goes on in that country, where some serious developments are expected. It has, over the past three years, been able to impose its views on Sudanese Revolution Command Council [RCC] Chairman Lt. Gen. al-Bashir, the RCC itself, and al-Turabi and the NIF's traditional leadership.

That committee, it seems, was behind the practical freezing of the RCC. It has been claimed that four RCC members have suspended their activities and have stayed away in protest against the "40 committee's" excesses, interference in every matter however big or small, and imposition of its views on Lt. Gen. al-Bashir and on al-Turabi's front.

According to another confirmed testimony, the "40 committee" drafted a memorandum about two months ago and asked one of its men to deliver it to al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, the efficient officer and the real leader of Lt. Gen. al-Bashir's group. The memorandum urged dissolution of the RCC and wanted an end to the threats to remove the Islamic trend from the centers of power. Available information indicates that the committee was on the verge of carrying out a coup d'etat and of arresting and executing al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih but that al-Turabi interceded at the last moment, the situation was calmed, and the committee was persuaded that the time was not yet ripe for such a step and that any confrontation between al-Turabi's front and al-Bashir's group would result in a catastrophe.

According to circulated assessments, that incident reinforced the influence of the "40 committee" in the Sudanese Armed Forces and in civilian departments. Some people maintain that the statements made by Dr. al-Turabi some time ago in which he spoke of the need to dissolve the RCC and restore civilian life in the country were made to please the military committee's officers. It is known that al-Bashir then immediately made ambiguous statements, saying that it was still too early to restore civilian life.

Despite that, all indications are that the RCC's days are numbered and that Lt. Gen. al-Bashir may remain but only as a front for rule by the "40 committee," which is considered to be the military wing, the strike force, of al-Turabi's front, which is dissolved in name only. But that will be the case only for a period of time. In the end he will find himself compelled to opt either for suicidal confrontation or for staying away.

The "40 committee" officers now control all Sudanese intelligence sections. They have also created a secret organ called "Islamic Front Security" which is now the stronger organ penetrating all military and civilian sectors. Any student wishing to join the military academy must first be nominated by that organ, which does not allow the enlistment of any person who is suspect or holds opposite views.

According to information from numerous sources, Sudanese-Iranian cooperation now goes through that particular channel; Sudanese-Iranian relations, which al-Turabi is trying to keep within the Arab-Islamic Popular Congress which he heads, are really confined to the "40 committee" and the organs attached to it, and in that context there has been coordination of the minute details. [passage omitted]

Although all the opposition leaders at home rule out the possibility of a military coup against the regime of al-Bashir and al-Turabi's front becaust of the "40 committee's" tight control of the armed forces, they do speak of a hidden but acute conflict between the officers' committee and the Sudanese head of state and his aides. The opposition leaders at home say that liquidation is a possibility and that the coming period will be one of confrontation between al-Bashir and the front.

They agree that al-Bashir is the weaker party, and they do not think it unlikely that the Sudanese could wake up one morning to find the Sudanese head of state in prison on a charge of high treason.

Ministry Official Denies Existence of Iranian Ships

EA1403121593 Khartoum SUNA in English 0930 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Mar (SUNA)—First undersecretary of Foreign Ministry, Umar Yusuf Barido, made a request to the Egyptian charge d'affaires here Saturday [13 March].

Barido has informed the Egyptian diplomat of Sudan's astonishment over President Husni Mubarak's statements on existence of Iranian ships in Port Sudan. Barido has denied such information, affirming Sudan's keenness on Egypt's security.

Ambassador on U.S. Condemning Country's Human Rights

EA1303193293 Khartoum SUNA in English 1630 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Addis Ababa, 13 Mar (SUNA)—Sudan ambassador to Ethiopia 'Uthman al-Sayyid, met in Addis Ababa, Saturday [13 March] Mr. Jan Eliasson, the U.N assistant secretary general for humanitarian action, and thanked him for the humanitarian efforts he exerted in Somalia.

The ambassador expressed to the U.N official Sudan's anxiety over the American attempts to issue condemnation against Sudan on alleged violation of human rights. He also expressed deploration over the U.N human rights committee resolution as regards human rights situation in Sudan.

He said that what has been going on in Washington, London and Geneva is not an accident but it is a process of organised campaigns aiming at distorting Sudan's reputation to justify an intervention in Sudan's internal affairs.

The ambassador announced that the Sudan could understand issuance of condemnation based on political stances against it by America, but it will not understand the exploitation of humanitarian issues for issuing condemnation against other nations.

Referring to his last visit to Sudan last November, Mr Eliasson expressed his satisfaction that the agreements signed between Sudan and U.N would be implemented so as to enable the U.N in collaboration with the Sudanese Government to reach [as received] the relief materials to the affected people in the south of Sudan.

Meanwhile, the Sudan ambassador to Ethiopia met same day with the secretary-general of the Organisation of African Unity (O.A.U), Salim Ahmed Salim, and briefed him on the outcome of his recent visits to New York and Washington, and the issues discussed during the visits which concern a number of African countries.

The ambassador said that the Sudan is exposed to an organised campaign against it launched by the United States.

On the other hand, the Sudanese Embassy in Addis Ababa issued Saturday [13 March] a statement refuting the allegations circulated by western media and some organisations about alleged violations of human rights in Sudan. The statement tackled the advent of the outlaws movement and its practices, pointing to the government's efforts for peace achievement.

Envoy to UK Reacts To 'American Attack'

AB1203153093 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 11 Mar 93

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Sudan has come in for an extraordinary onslaught by the United States of America. Assistant Secretary of State Herman Cohen has warned Sudan that it might be put on Washington's terrorism list because of its alleged links with Iranian extremists. He said America's allies were being asked to join a ban on arms exports to Khartoum. He also said President Clinton's government was considering the creation of safety zones in southern Sudan to protect refugees fleeing the civil war and famine in the region. Heby Salley asked Sudan's ambassador to London, Ali Yasin, how he reacted to the American attack.

[Begin recording] [Yasin] I would say it is a mere intimidation to Sudan to be diverted from the goals Sudan are claiming, that is (?perpetual) accusations on

Sudan because they want Sudan to change from what they declared. Sudan declared Islamic laws. It declared Islamic government. So some of the governments are very much afraid that the experience of Iran may be repeated in the Sudan. So they want Sudan to change the policies they declared some time ago, and accordingly they are squeezing Sudan now to get rid of the slogans [words indistinct] self- defense, self-reliance, and complete independence.

[Salley] What difference would it make to Sudan if the U.S. were to put it on its list of blacklisted countries?

[Yasin] Well, that will be very much unfair indeed, because they could not prove Sudan as bad as they are claiming.

[Salley] But would it affect Sudan (?at all)?

[Yasin] I am afraid it may. Yes, yes....

[Salley, interrupting] In which way?

[Yasin] Well, our relations now ... [changes thought] Sudan, maybe, suffered from some limited isolation. We don't want that (?to grip) [word indistinct] for a long time. On the other hand, you know, we are trying now to reopen new representations with other countries. So if that stigmatizes Sudan, I am afraid it may affect [us] adversely.

[Salley] Well, the U.S. is also speaking about the possibility of establishing safe zones in southern Sudan for people who are suffering from the effects of war and drought. How would your government feel about that?

[Yasin] Well, I don't know why they want to do that, since we have already signed an agreement with the international nongovernmental organizations [NGOs] for free access to Sudan. With the UN we have (?valid) agreements signed six weeks ago, and now Sudan Government is very cooperative; it is ready to allow any person to wander around any place except military zones, you know, (?areas). And so, safe zones are not necessary now. What we need now is to encourage the NGOs, the UN, some of the governments to provide relief to these affected people. [end recording]

Officials Deny Sudan Center of Terrorism

EA1303162593 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Sudanese diplomats have condemned American accusations that Sudan is harboring terrorists. They declared their rejection of proposals for setting up safe zones for refugees in southern Sudan.

The director of the Political Department at the Foreign Ministry said the proposal to set up safe zones is an expression of state hostility towards Sudan, which is unjustified because Sudan is a state that is able to administer itself, even though it has been facing an imposed and inherited war for more than thirty years.

He explained that Sudan had been through difficult times. The world knew that drought deprived Sudan of having enough food, but the state, through its earnestness, managed in the past three years to provide food and to implement an agreement with the United Nations to deliver food to areas under the control of the rebel movement.

On the U.S. Government's threat to include Sudan's name in the list of states that support terrorism, which is issued by the State Department, his excellency said the American allegation that Sudan had become a place for terrorist organizations, was neither founded on facts nor reality.

University Takeover Begins; Bookings to Cairo Rise

NC1303181993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Mar (MENA)—The al-Nilayn University, previously Cairo University, Khartoum branch, today began procedures for the takeover of the university through two committees.

University President Dr. Ibrahim al-Amin Jabr stated that new university cadres will be appointed within a week and lectures will begin in October.

The Omdurman Islamic University staff have sent a message to Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council, declaring that they are fully prepared to support the al-Nilayn University intellectually, particularly in Islamic studies.

In another development, for the first time the Sudanese authorities today allowed a number of Egyptian professors to enter the university, which is still surrounded by troops, to reclaim their personal belongings, particularly their passports.

Egypt Air is experiencing a high number of persons requesting bookings to Cairo. The company's branch in Khartoum had to request a charter flight or a bigger plane to transport Egyptians wishing to return to Egypt.

Education Minister on Takeover

EA1203220593 Khartoum SUNA in English 1616 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Mar (SUNA)—Minister of higher education and scientific research, Prof Ibrahim Ahmad Omar, announced that al-Nilayn University will witness a transformation in the next years. The transformation will start by application of Sudanese curricula instead of Egyptian curricula in the beginning of new academic year next October.

In a press statement, Omar said that the admission to the university will be through the unified admission and the curricula will serve the comprehensive national strategy and participate in planning of educational and scientific research policies in Sudan, stressing his ministry's keenness to [make] adequate all scientific requirements in the students and teachers.

Omar emphasised that the decision of the transformation of the Cairo University to al-Nilayn University came within framework of government's concern with Sudanese student who is considered as the basic factor of the development, pointing out that al-Nilayn University will boost the national renaissance by its self-abilities.

Omar expressed hope that the transformation procedures will start Saturday [13 March]. He said that they will appoint qualified teachers to the university from the Sudanese teachers or any other lecturers from abroad according to contracts with the university.

New Administration Taking Control

EA1303204193 Omdurman National Unity Radio in English 1500 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] The newly appointed administration of al-Nilayn University, which is to replace the former Cairo University, Khartoum branch administration, has begun taking over the control of the university's administration. The vice chancellor of al-Nilayn University, Professor Ibrahim Hajjar, explained that shortly, new staff members would be appointed to run the administration of the university and other related duties. This, he said, will take place in a week's time from now. He added that preparations are continuing to recruit new teachers on an individual basis for the time being.

Teachers Barred From Campus

NC1303222293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2159 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Mar (MENA)—Sudanese authorities today objected to the entry of a number of Egyptian teaching staff of Cairo University's Khartoum branch when they tried to go in to retrieve their personal effects from the university building.

Dr. Zaynab 'Abd-al-Rahman, professor at the science college of Cairo University's Khartoum branch disclosed this upon her return today. She said security men prevented them from entering and seized several cars belonging to Egyptians parked on the university campus as well as the university's printing press.

Dr. Zaynab added that some 100 family members of the teaching staff will return to Cairo on Monday aboard two Egypt Air planes.

GCC Oil Ministers Open Closed Session

Kuwaiti, Omani, Qatari Ministers Arrive

LD1303184093 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Their excellencies the Kuwaiti oil minister, 'Ali Ahmad al-Baghli, the Omani oil minister, Sa'id Bin-Ahmad al-Shanfari, and the Qatari minister of energy and industry, 'Abdallah al-Hamad al-'Atiya, arrived in Jeddah today to participate in a ministerial conference of GCC oil ministers, which opens in Jeddah later today. [passage omitted]

Session Convened

LD1303230993 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2230 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 13 Mar (SPA)—The permanent ministerial committee of the GCC countries convened its 18th meeting today at the Conferences Palace in Jeddah under the chairmanship of His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Umayr Bin-Yusuf, the UAE petroleum and mineral resources minister. [passage omitted] The closed session of the 18th meeting of the permanent ministerial committee for oil cooperation started to discuss the subjects listed on the agenda.

Kuwaiti Minister's Statement

LD1403112693 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] The Oil Minister 'Ali Ahmad al-Baghli said that the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states should impose taxes on their imports from the United States and the EC countries if those countries imposed taxes on energy.

In statements to newsmen in Jeddah at the end of the GCC oil ministers 18th meeting, Oil Minister al-Baghli said that the GCC states should introduce unified and effective measures in this matter.

The oil minister affirmed Kuwait's compliance with its production quota in accordance with the agreement on the production cutback reached by OPEC recently, provided that the other member states also complied with this agreement. He said that the GCC oil ministers agreed to strengthen cooperation between the GCC states in the oil policy fields, particularly those that are related to setting up joint projects embracing gas and oil projects.

More on Kuwaiti's Comments

LD1403135293 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1155 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Jeddah, 14 Mar (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Oil Minister 'Ali Ahmad al-Baghli confirmed that Kuwait has complied with the OPEC agreement on oil production cuts by lowering its output to 1.6 million barrels per day instead of 2 million, Kuwait's previous production ceiling.

Al-Baghli threatened to take effective measures to counter any sign of the other OPEC states not complying with the recent agreement. Al-Baghli's statements were made following the meetings of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] oil ministers held here last night.

Al-Baghli said that Kuwait has continued to boost its production capacity, which will in the next two months reach 2.1 million barrels per day. He noted that the available production capacity has nothing to do with the actual production. He said that Kuwait had made sacrifices in return for a clear promise and an agreement in advance from the rest of the OPEC members that it increases its quota as of next July.

On the other hand, al-Baghli described the intention of some industrialized countries to impose taxes on their oil imports as being biased against oil. Al-Baghli called for positive and effective measures to confront this intention, which poses a threat to the basics of livelihood in the countries of the area.

The minister did not rule out the introduction of taxes on the exports of the industrialized countries to the GCC states. Al- Baghli said we have been observing for 10 years what has been happening in the Western countries and America about these taxes.

He added that the U.S. Administration and the western powers are earnest in their intention to impose this tax despite the contacts and exchange of points of view that had taken place between the exporting and importing countries.

He said that committees had been formed from the GCC states to prepare for taking unified measures. However, the GCC states are going ahead with adopting a unified stance after measures and resolutions had been crystallized. Al-Baghli said that, the more the oil exporting countries participate in confronting the oil duties, the better the return is going to be, but he did not rule out the GCC states might make the decision on their own without the participation of the other OPEC countries.

On the other hand, al-Baghli called for greater cooperation among the GCC states in the field of joint projects, especially those that cover gas and oil by-products, spare parts for oil refineries as well as cooperation in the production of oil lubricants and unleaded fuel.

Committee Issues Statement

LD1403084593 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0108 GMT 14 Mar 93

["Press Statement on the 18th Meeting of the Permanent Ministerial Committee on Petroleum Cooperation"]

[Text] Jeddah, 13 Mar (SPA)—The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] permanent ministerial committee of petroleum cooperation concluded its 18th meeting this evening in Jeddah in the presence of their excellencies the GCC oil ministers.

The meeting was chaired by His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Umayr Bin-Yusuf, the United Arab Emirates [UAE] minister of petroleum and mineral resources. The following press statement was issued by the committee:

The permanent ministerial committee on petroleum cooperation held its 18th meeting in the city of Jeddah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 13 March 1993 under the chairmanship of His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Umayr Bin-Yusuf, UAE minister of petroleum and mineral resources.

The committee reviewed the work of the other technical committees. The ministers also reviewed the international oil market and expressed their satisfaction with the improvement in the level of prices in the last few weeks as a result of the OPEC agreement in February on cutbacks in production ceilings to restore a market balance.

The ministers affirmed the commitment of the GCC states who are also OPEC members to the agreement and also their confidence that the rest of the OPEC member states will adhere to their production ceilings in accordance with the agreement.

The ministers also reviewed the question of various taxes to which oil is being exposed in industrialized states under various terminologies such as carbon tax and energy tax. They affirmed the opposition of their states to the principle of increasing the tax burden on oil, which is heavily taxed already—particularly in the EC countries and especially when those countries are subsidizing energy sources that cause greater environmental harm like coal and nuclear energy.

They affirmed their desire to safeguard their petroleum interests and the continuation of the flow of their export of that basic commodity without obstacles or restrictions, whether these be in the form of taxes or other forms. This is in harmony with the plans laid down by their states in order to meet the oil needs of the world economy.

The ministers welcomed an invitation by the Sultanate of Oman to convene a meeting on 12 April to include the oil ministers of the OPEC members states and non OPEC members states.

Gulf States Warned Against Serb Business in Region

NC1503112893 Paris AFP in English 1051 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, March 15 (AFP)—Gulf Arab states, which support Bosnian Muslims, have been warned that Serbian companies are buying arms and doing business in the region in violation of U.N. sanctions, Gulf and Bosnian officials said Monday.

The warning was contained in letters sent by the Sharjah-based Bosnian Trade Centre to chambers of commerce in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), a Sharjah chamber official said.

The Bosnians charged that Serb companies were still operating in the region and falsifying certificates of origin to sell goods "stolen from Bosnia," the official said.

A letter sent to the six GCC states urged them "to take action to stop such practices, which violate U.N sanctions."

The GULF NEWS quoted the director of the Bosnian Trade Centre, Edin Delic, as saying Serbs were trying to sell goods stolen from factories and shops belonging to the Bosnian government in Serbian- controlled areas.

Serbian businessmen were falsifying certificates of origin issued by the chambers of some pro-Serbian countries, he said.

Delic was not immediately available for further comment on the alleged violations, which he said also included buying arms.

"The Serbs have established supply lines and financial arrangements to export various kinds of goods and military material from the host countries and had them delivered through offices in Cyprus, Greece, Malta, Hungary, Romania and Russia," he told GULF NEWS.

He urged GCC states to "double check while dealing with the nationals of former Yugoslavia."

GCC states of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have backed Bosnian Muslims in their war against the Serbs, and have urged the U.N to lift an arms embargo on Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Kuwait

Bombs Explode in Kuwait City; No Casualties

LD1303143593 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1337 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Kuwait, 13 Mar (KUNA)—An official source at the Interior Ministry said that three explosions took place last night and today at dawn in al-Farwaniyah [south of Kuwait city] and Julayb al-Shuyukh [southwest of al-Farwaniyah] without causing any deaths or material damage.

The source indicated that an explosion occurred yesterday at about 2100 in the garden facing the Holiday Inn Hotel in the al- Farwaniyah area and was followed two minutes later by another explosion at the same place.

The source also said that a bomb went off today at about 0100 in a deserted house close to the telephone exchange of Julayb al- Shuyukh. The source said that the aforementioned blasts did not result in any deaths or material losses worth mentioning and stressed that competent security bodies are continuing their intensive investigations and efforts to reveal the circumstances and conditions behind these incidents.

Foreign Minister on Talabani Visit, Beirut Explosion

LD1403214793 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1825 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Mar [KUNA]—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, briefed the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers at its weekly meeting today on the results of the visit paid to Kuwait last week by Jalal Talabani, leader of the Iraqi Kurdistan Front [title as received]. An official statement issued by the Council of Ministers said that the leader of the Kurdistan Front stressed the need for the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions, particularly those pertaining to the border between Kuwait and Iraq which was demarcated by the United Nations, and for the respecting of Kuwait's sovereignty.

The council also heard the first deputy prime minister's briefing on the details of the explosion that occurred near the Kuwaiti Embassy in Lebanon and its results.

The statement pointed out that the council has followed with interest and satisfaction the results of the meeting of the leaders of the Afghan factions, praising the mediation efforts made by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan to bring the views of Afghan leaders closer together and settle the conflict in Afghanistan.

The council condemned the "criminal operations" to which India was subjected recently, and denounced "the acts of sabotage as a result of which innocent people have died," and which went against every religious principle and humanitarian and legal values.

Interior Minister on Activities on Iraqi Border

NC1403143493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1332 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Mar (MENA)—Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir has stated that the two Pakistani soldiers who were detained by Iraqi forces on 5 March are still in Iraqi custody.

He told MENA's correspondent in Kuwait that Iraqi forces are not currently making incursions into Kuwaiti territory but perpetrate other violations in the form of opening fire on the Kuwaiti side across the border on a regular weekly basis.

The Kuwaiti interior minister urged the UN forces to increase their patrols on the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border, particularly the patrols originating in posts located inside Iraqi territory.

He added that Iraqi troops are still manning the Safhan border post, which is now inside the Kuwaiti border.

Oman

Accords With India for Refineries, Pipeline

BK1303153493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] India and Oman have signed three memorandums of understanding [MOU] for setting up of two oil refineries in India and for the construction of a gas pipeline between the two countries. One refinery will be set up in the central India and the other on the western coast. Each of these will have an initial capacity to refine 120,000 barrels of crude oil per day. Our Gulf correspondent reports that the MOU were signed in Muscat today by the minister of state for petroleum, Captain Satish Sharma, and the Omani deputy prime minister, Mr. Qays Bin-'Abd-al-Mun'im. Under the third memorandum, Oman will carry out detailed study for the construction of a submarine gas pipeline between the two countries.

Saudi Arabia

King Thanks Pakistan, U.S. for Afghan Support

LD1303213093 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, in the course of his reply to a question by SPA concerning the countries which gave their support to Afghanistan, said: In my view, the states which helped the Afghan people from the time of occupation until they realized victory were: the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Pakistan, and the United States of America. They all contributed with their continuous efforts at various political, military and financial levels. The role of these states, with the grace of God, had an effective influence on the return of the Afghan people to their homeland.

The exalted king, may God protect him, also said: If there were other quarters which made similar contributions, I have no knowledge about them.

Afghan Community Thanks King for Peace Efforts

LD1403133693 Riyadh SPA in English 1240 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Mecca, March 14, SPA—Members of the Afghan community in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have expressed appreciation for the great efforts exerted by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz for the reconciliation of the Afghan leaders.

We have received with happiness and pleasure the blessed reconciliation of the Afghan factions, said Sayyed Sarur al-Hashemi in a cable to the monarch on behalf of the Afghan community.

We do appreciate the intensified efforts exerted by you to heal the rift among the Afghan leaders, he added. Your call to the Afghan leaders has yielded positive results and paved the way for their reconciliation, said al-Hashemi. History will never forget your unwavering support to the Afghan people, he added.

For his part the monarch has sent a cable of thanks to Sayyed Sarur al-Hashemi in reply to his cable. The monarch expressed appreciation for the heartfelt feelings expressed by the members of the Afghan community. He hoped that the reconciliation agreement signed by the Afghan leaders would bring about peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Saddam Addresses Tribesmen in al-Basrah

JN1303194693 Baghdad INA in English 1920 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Mar (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today received chiefs of tribes, dignitaries and religious men of the southern Iraq port province of al-Basrah.

During the meeting, President Husayn referred to a news report by the British OBSERVER newspaper alleging that the Iraqi Government was poisoning waters in the marshes and commented saying, "You have to imagine the level and evilness of your enemies had reached by claiming that we poison the water of our people."

The president added that the enemies were perplexed before the steadfastness of your people and the way in which they had preserved their dignity, faith and future.

President Husayn further pointed out that they enemy did not imagine that Iraq would come out from the injustice safe and that the government poisons water is something we hear from radios for the first time. We do not care of what they say abroad. What we are concerned over is our people and the Iraqis' being well and that all live in happiness.

Saddam Speech to Chieftains

JN1403160793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1220 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Speech by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in Iraqi vernacular during his reception of tribesmen and dignitaries from al-Basrah, "who vowed absolute allegiance to great Iraq, to its mujahid people, to its hero leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, and to the revolution and its principles and policy, on 13 March; place not given—recorded]

[Text] Many happy returns. May Ramadan come again to all Iraqis and faithful people, God willing, with prosperity, God's blessings, and all that will reinforce faith. May God bless al-Basrah's people. [applause] How is al-Basrah? Are its people well? Our greetings to [words indistinct] from the edges of the marshes. Yesterday, I was outside Baghdad [words indistinct], and I tuned the radio to a foreign station and heard a report—I do not know if 'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin had caught it—that your government was poisoning the water in the marshes. Just imagine the level and the evilness the enemy has reached by claiming that we poison our people's water in order to poison the people. Where did they get this report [word indistinct] all the considerations you know?

You can conclude from this and other incidents how the enemy is perplexed with our people, as it cannot imagine that after all it had prepared for in the trench of Satan, the people have preserved their dignity and future, and also despite all this, they have preserved their faith. They did not imagine that despite all this injustice they brought for striking Iraq in the name of Satan, Iraq could emerge safely. Therefore, they say that the Iraqi Government is poisoning water in the marshes so that people die. I think that they would not object to poisoning their people if they believed that they would not win their elections. If they had not been prepared to poison their people, they would not have imagined that any government in the world could poison its people.

The government will strike those who disobedy the law, God not willing, whether in al-Jazirah, the desert, the mountains, the plains, or the marshes.

The government will strike and will bring people to court in accordance with the law. Who is that unlucky one among all the Iraqis and the Arabs who will poison water to kill people? I cannot say that someone reported that water is being poisoned in France to kill the French people or that water is being poisoned in Italy or the United States so that the Italian and American peoples die. I cannot imagine that a government can poison the people's water. The government will punish wrongdoers and those who do something that calls for punishment. It also may pardon those who facilitate matters [word indistinct]. This is the first time that we have heard that the government is poisoning water. I think it was broadcast by Paris Radio Monte Carlo.

[Words indistinct], God be praised, that the al-Basrah people are well and will be very well; that the people of al-'Amarah, al- Nasiriyah, Baghdad, Irbil, al-Sulaymaniyah, and Dahuk will also be well; [applause] that everyone will live happily in faith, each in his own way; that everyone will live in safety; and that everyone will live for the sake of Iraq and the great principles raised in the eternal Mother of Battles.

May God greet the al-Basrah people, May God greet the al-Basrah people. [applause and chanting] God be praised. The most important thing is the people's faith. The people's faith is great, God be praised. [chanting] God be praised. [chanting]

Saddam Receives Maysan Governorate Chieftains

JN1403201493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Learned men of religion, tribal chieftains, clan leaders, figures, and a number of social personalities from Maysan Governorate have taken the oath of defending great Iraq and sacrificing for its sovereignty, security, and unity until martyrdom or final decisive victory, God willing. They also pledged to God and the homeland to remain rifles aimed at the covetous foreign enemies of Iraq and the charlatan traitors and to form one rank over which the banner of God Is Great will flutter proudly—a banner which is being carried by the knight of the nation and the leader of the Iraqi people, President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him. The audience chanted popular songs and slogans greeting the mujahid leader and stressing determination to continue the glorious struggle.

The people's leader delivered a valuable speech to the audience and to citizens in Maysan Governorate and throughout Iraq. Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, ordered that 20 million dinars be allocated to promote municipal and cultural services rendered to citizens in Maysan Governorate and to create new services. May God preserve the leader as an asset for the Iraqis and grant him long life to preserve Iraq's strength and the Iraqis' prosperity. The reception was attended by Hatim Hamdan al- 'Azzawi, head of the Presidential Office.

Regime Said To Attack Irbil province Village

NC1303181893 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1608 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] The Baghdad regime launched a savage attack against the peasant families of 'Uwaynah village in Irbil Province. Regime mercenaries gathered the women and children and opened fire on them, killing or wounding scores of them. This incident was part of the regime's attempt to cause strife and problems between the Arabs and Kurds in mixed villages and between tribes in these areas. Following this incident, the angry masses, with the participation of the Kurdistan parties, staged a mass demonstration in Irbil and proceeded toward the UN representation to express their denunciation of such planned crimes by the regime.

'More Than 150' Tribal Leaders Reported Executed

NC1203182193 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] A Patriotic Union of Kurdistan source has told our radio that the dictatorial regime has executed more than 150 of the 475 tribal and leading figures from al-Basrah Governorate detained in the Abu Ghurayb prison. They were executed during the first week of February.

The Baghdad regime launched a widespread media campaign at the time in an attempt to show the loyalty of al-Basrah's tribes and leaders to Iraq's dictator by publishing forged letters carrying their signatures stating love and loyalty to the dictator.

Our source added that the Abu Ghurayb prison wings are teeming with detainees and that it cannot absorb this large number of prisoners. The source said there are more than 5,000 prisoners in each wing which were originally built to hold 100 prisoners. There are now around 40,000 prisoners in the Abu Ghurayb prison which was built to hold 6,000 prisoners. These prisoners are living in extremely harsh conditions.

'Abnormal' Status in North Discussed

JN1303142693 Baghdad INA in English 1305 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Mar (INA)—AL-'IRAQ daily for today described what has been happening in Iraq's Kurdistan under the American and Atlantic spears and with the blessing of Zionism as part of a hostile plan aimed at liquidating the Kurdish national rights on the pretext of defending them.

The daily said in an article that at a time the process of autonomy was moving ahead with solving the problem of backwardness in Kurdistan in a democratic experience, the enemies of the Kurds who used to trade in false slogans began to set up plans sponsored by imperialism and Zionism on how to undermine Iraq and blow up the autonomy process.

It wondered why had Barzani taken his gun once again to fight against the revolutionary authority that ensured the Kurds' full national rights, adding that the answer for this question was that Barzani and his party were fighting not only for their position in power to serve pure personal ends, but also in implementation of the foreign powers' design aimed at keeping Iraq's national wounds open.

It stressed that the March 11 manifesto of 1970 and the achievement that followed had given the Kurds what any state had failed to secure for its Kurdish population, especially as it recognized the Kurdish national rights, in the forefront of which are the rights to language and culture.

Another daily, AL-JUMHURIYAH, said July 17-30 revolution led by President Saddam Husayn was the only ruling regime, not only in Iraq's history, but also in the region and the whole world, that admitted the legitimate rights of the Kurdish people and allowed them to take part in the highest constitutional power and the major official institutions in the country.

The daily added that the agent elements in the north were used to acting behind the scenes, taking advantage of the abnormal situation there to outbid the Kurdish question in their conflict with the state, thus increasing the suffering of the Kurdish people and driving region in a state of chaos.

The daily made it clear that the current situation in the north of Iraq would not last long, confirming that history would not forgive those agents for the crimes they had committed against their nation and people.

'Mujahidin' Said To Threaten 'Tyrant's Henchmen'

JN1303200793 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1835 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Over the past few days, the zealous mujahidin of the Islamic revolution have sent letters containing strongly worded threats to a number of traitorous criminals affiliated with the defeated tyrant [Saddam Husayn].

Our mujahidin sources noted that among those warned in the Saddamist gang was Major Mahdi Jum'ah. These sources added that the mujahidin stuck the picture of the martyr [Muhammad Baqir] al-Sadr on the door of the abovementioned major. This major is reported to have been playing a devious role in reporting a number of our people to the regime.

Our heroes also warned Police First Lieutenant Muhammad Sadiq Kazim, director of the Saddamist security section in the al-Musharrah district, and the criminal 'Abd-al-Hakim Yasin, member of the 'Aflaqite [Ba'th] Party in the same district.

The mujahidin letters are meant to warn the tyrant's henchmen against continuing to terrorize people and families, telling them that just punishment will sooner or later be meted out to them with God's support.

Kurdish Official on 'Obstacles' Facing Autonomy

JN1203165893 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 10 Mar 93 p 3

[Interview with Baha'-al-Din Ahmad, head of the Legislative Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region, by Malallah Faraj; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Faraj] How do you explain the current situation in Kurdistan in light of the acts of sabotage and the foreign presence?

[Ahmad] The current destruction and unreasonable encroachment on citizens and their property in the cities and countryside of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region are only part of the tragedy that our Kurdish people are experiencing. They are an extension of the chapter of treason and treachery against our dear country following the sinful 30-state aggression, which sought to undermine Iraq's unity and to divide and destroy its economic and social infrastructure. [passage omitted]

[Faraj] Any law is like a human being. It cannot come to life with an integrated entity. Rather, a law must constantly develop so as to meet a society's progress, needs, and advancement. Do you see in the autonomy law, which is a pioneering experience, any obstacles that can be tackled to develop this major national accomplishment?

[Ahmad] The autonomy, which was approved by the 11 March Declaration, has been a pioneering experience which cannot be ignored. This is because it has met the constant national rights of our Kurdish people in Iraq and acknowledged their right to express their national identity. It also opened before them broad horizons for bypassing years of backwardness, foreign interference, and war. A project as important as autonomy and implementing it in an atmosphere of national disputes, foreign interference, and the policy of exploiting the entire Kurdish issue to serve Western, Zionist, and regional interests must hit obstacles which would hamper its being implemented in a manner that meets the aspirations of the leadership of the [Ba'th] party and the revolution. This experience has not been a pleasant one for Turkey, Iran, and Syria. Therefore, since its early stages, this experience has faced difficult circumstances, perhaps commensurate with the harm these parties have suffered as result of the continued autonomy experience in Iraq at a time when Kurdish rights there are absent and when the Kurdish national identity is being obliterated in those countries.

Autonomy has been accompanied by some failures and incorrect individual practices which may take place during the implementation of the law as a result of misunderstandings, negligence, or varying degrees of awareness. Such things can happen anywhere when such a great experience is being implemented. Nevertheless, the essence of autonomy remains a long-awaited historic gain for the Kurds. Likewise, the 11 March Declaration remains a sound gate for all Iraqis and a gate for stability and national expression.

Any failure of any aspect of the national experience and any marginal and individual mistakes accompanying this experience do not in any way justify national treason or foreign affiliations. National interest and affiliation, and loyalty to the national soil, require a brave and responsible handling of mistakes to rectify them and to tackle any problems should they exist. [passage omitted]

SAIRI Sources Cited on Arrests, Torture in South

LD1403221493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] said on Sunday that security and intelligence forces of the Iraqi Ba'th regime again attacked residents south of the 32d parallel and arrested several persons during the past few days. SAIRI sources said the operations were supervised by Iraqi Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim 'Ali Hasan, and that the arrested persons were severely tortured on his orders.

The provinces of al-Nasiriyah, al-'Amarah, al-Samawa, and al- Diwaniyah were among the areas attacked, the sources said.

Recent U-2 Overflights Protested to UN Chief

JN1403124993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] The United Nations, 14 Mar (INA)—Iraq has informed the United Nations of the continued Iraqi airspace violations committed by the U.S. spy plane U-2 on the pretext of conducting aerial surveys for the Special Commission.

In a letter addressed to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali, Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said that this plane, having taken off from an air base in Saudi Arabia, violated Iraqi airspace on Wednesday, 3 March, adding that its flights centered over the Baghdad area and parts of the northern region. The plane's overflight continued for 5 hours and 25 minutes, the minister maintained.

The minister also pointed out that this plane violated Iraqi airspace again on 6 and 9 March, overflying large areas in northern and central Iraq. He added that these three violations, which took place in a single week, have raised to 121 the number of violations thus far committed by this plane.

The foreign minister denounced these unjustifiable violations of the Iraqi airspace, affirming Iraq's declared position in this regard, which states that this plane is being used for purposes other than those mandated by the Security Council, and that its activities undermine Iraq's security and sovereignty.

Arab League Informed of Airspace 'Violations'

JN1403135393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 Mar (INA)—Iraq has informed the Arab League that U.S., British, and French aircraft, taking off from air bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, have continued to violate Iraqi airspace, thus seriously jeopardizing Iraq's security and sovereignty.

In a letter addressed to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the Iraqi permanent representative to the Arab League said that these aircraft violated Iraqi airspace on 9 and 10 March, carrying out 74 air sorties over Iraqi territory.

The Iraqi delegate attached to the letter a list detailing these violations, and requested that the letter be circulated among the Arab states so that they may be aware of these regrettable incidents.

Health Minister: Embargo Fatalities Total 233,789

JN1403092193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Mar (INA)—Health Minister Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak has said that over a quarter of a million Iraqis have died since the start of the economic embargo imposed on Iraq in 1990 as a result of the shortage of medicine and medical supplies and the malnutrition caused by scarce food supplies.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH published today, Dr. Mubarak added that as of the end of January 1993, the actual number of these fatalities totaled 233,789. He noted that this figure included 83,078 under fives, while the remaining 150,711 were over five.

The minister pointed out that the Health Ministry has suffered an annual 85 percent shortage of medicines and medical supplies since 2 August 1990.

Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak stated that his Ministry has curtailed many activities which used to be carried out by health institutes. The job of these institutes, he concluded, is currently confined to treating emergencies.

Egyptian Envoy on Goals of Baghdad Assignment

JN1403084293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0723 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Mar (INA)—Rida Nasr, the Egyptian diplomat appointed by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry as the official in charge of looking after Egyptian interests in Iraq, has described his Baghdad mission as a good and fine step toward restoring amity and fraternal solidarity between Egypt and Iraq.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-THAWRAH, the Egyptian diplomat, who arrived in Baghdad the day before yesterday, said that the Egyptian people consider Iraqis a fraternal people, noting that the pains experienced by the Iraqi people are felt by the Egyptian people, because we are all brothers.

Rida Nasr affirmed the need to help Iraq surmount the current ordeal, because any effort to strengthen Iraq and the Iraqi people will consequently strengthen the Egyptian people as well as the Arabs.

The Egyptian diplomat said that the Security Council's policy toward international issues is dictated by the big powers, adding that the resolutions it passed against Iraq reflected submission to the dictates of these powers. He expressed the belief that the Security Council is currently employing double standards.

Concerning his mission in Baghdad, the Egyptian diplomat said that one of the objectives of his mission is to ease the difficulties and resolve the problems faced by Egyptians in Iraq.

Rida Nasr hoped that Arab solidarity would be restored, contending that Arab solidarity is indispensable. We all, he added, must work to regain this solidarity within the framework of a collective effort that will promote the objectives of the Arab nation.

Commenting on the role the Arab League could play in this regard, the Egyptian diplomat said that the Arab League has actually begun an effort to restore Arab solidarity and amity within Arab ranks.

Editorial Assails Egypt on Envoy's Arrival

JN1303143793 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] The Iraqi newspaper BABIL, which is run by 'Udayy Husayn, the eldest son of the Iraqi president, has fiercely attacked Egypt. In its editorial, it said that the Egyptian regime has begun the countdown, in an indication to the growing violent actions by the extremist Islamists. It added that the Egyptian people will not forget that attacking Iraq, as well as the Egyptian regime's effective participation under Husni Mubarak, were an unprecedented insult to their struggle. The newspaper BABII said that the basic function of the current Egyptian regime has ended.

This criticism coincided with the arrival of Egyptian Foreign Ministry adviser Rida 'Abd-al-Karim in Baghdad last night to take care of the interests of the Egyptian community in Iraq. He will replace the Indian Embassy, which has been undertaking this task since the closure of the Egyptian diplomatic mission in August 1991.

It is worth mentioning that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will make a tour of Germany, France, and Britain later this month before heading to the United States on 6 April.

MENA Office Resumes Activity in Baghdad

JN1303144393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Mar (INA)—The office of the Egyptian MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY [MENA] has resumed its activity in Baghdad.

'Adnan al-Juburi, INA director general and chief editor, has met with Muhammad Haykal, director of the Egyptian news agency's office in Baghdad, and discussed means of promoting relations between the two deep-rooted agencies through the exchange of information, reports, and news.

'Adnan al-Juburi expressed INA's readiness to assist and help the MENA office in the interest of Arab media and their role in serving the Arab nation and its fateful issues.

MENA office director Muhammad Haykal arrived in Baghdad last night.

Hurani Remarks on Relations With Russia Denied

JN1403192393 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] An official PLO source has stated the following: The press statements which brother 'Abdallah Hurani, PLO Executive Committee member, made to the Tunisian newspaper AL-BAYAN on Monday [8 March] do not represent the PLO's view. Russian-Palestinian friendship is continuous and firm and is based on mutual respect and confidence. The PLO highly appreciates the role that Russia is playing in the peace process.

PUK Leader Talabani on Kuwait Visit

NC1303102393 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with Patriotic Union of Kurdistan leader Jalal Talabani by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo, during the "Dialogue From Afar" program; Talabani's location, date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Abu-al-Majd] Mr. Talabani: Welcome to Voice of the Arabs.

[Talabani] Thank you.

[Abu-al-Majd] Your recent visit to Kuwait followed the Iraqi opposition conference in Salah al-Din and came amid attempts by the Iraqi regime to get closer to the West and Arab states and begin a new chapter in relations with these countries. What is the significance of this visit?

[Talabani] The visit is quite significant, in fact. The two fraternal peoples of Iraq and Kuwait, who together have suffered from Saddam's despicable dictatorship, continue to be fraternal and major allies in the joint struggle to save Iraq and the Arab nation from the current dictatorship strangling the Iraqi people. This dictatorship has brought disasters and calamities to the Arab nation and the entire region. [passage omitted]

[Abu-al-Majd] Do you support the implementation of all UN resolutions on the liberation of Kuwait, particularly the one that deals with marking the borders with Kuwait?

[Talabani] Yes. This is exactly what we want; namely, recognizing Kuwait's independence and the international resolutions, including the one defining the borders. We want a peaceful and democratic Iraq that establishes internal peace by ending the civil war and ethnic and factional persecution, consolidates national unity in the country, and restores Iraq's dignity, independence, and sovereignty while at the same time establishing just peace with its neighbors and ending the hostilities created by the dictatorship. These hostilities have been contrary to the interests of Iraq, the Arab nation, and the region's peoples. [passage omitted]

[Abu-al-Majd] What will you do in the coming stage to safeguard the security of the Iraqis and establish peace with all neighbors?

[Talabani] We appeal to the Iraqi people, including the cooperative Army officers and even those in the ruling party, to join the opposition to expedite freeing Iraq of the dictatorship. These committees and offices [not further specified] have already started their work, and we hope and believe that these offices' efforts soon will bear fruit.

[Abu-al-Majd] There are reports that the Iraqi regime is seeking to reconcile with the Iraqi opposition. How true are these reports according to your information?

[Talabani] In fact, the Iraqi Government has sent unofficial delegations requesting that dialogue be reopened on the basis of recognizing the current situation in Iraqi Kurdistan. However, the Iraqi Government is not serious and never has been. It ignores the fundamental question; namely, the issue of democracy in Iraq and the establishment of a democratic, pluralistic, and parliamentary regime that allows the Iraqi people to exercise their right to administer their country's affairs and enjoy the riches and resources of their country. The despotic regime is trying to divide the ranks of the opposition by tricking the Kurdistan Front into going to the negotiating table with it, but such negotiations would be futile because their results are known in advance. The regime wants to divide the opposition, since the Kurdistan

Front is a major force in the Iraqi opposition. This is a new Saddamite dictatorial ploy which will fool neither the Kurdistan Front nor the Iraqi opposition, and which is certainly doomed to fail.

[Abu-al-Majd] What kind of Iraqi regime would you be willing to reconcile with, and what kind would avoid the partition of Iraq?

[Talabani] If Saddam resigns, for instance, and hands over power to a coalition and transitional government that could hold free elections under international supervision and allow the Iraqis to express themselves freely, then reaching an understanding with the new transitional government would be a possibility. But as long as Saddam stays in power—and he is a despot and a blood-thirsty dictator who has committed abominable war crimes against the Kurds, Iranians, and brotherly Kuwaitis—then it is impossible to have democracy under dictator Saddam Husayn.

[Abu-al-Majd] What were the most important results reached during your recent visit to Kuwait?

[Talabani] I could say that the meetings were friendly, frank, and fraternal. We reached a common understanding on the threats posed by the dictatorial regime and the need to work at the Iraqi, Arab, and international levels to save Iraq, the Arab nation, and the region from the dangers caused by this dictatorship, which is hostile to everyone.

[Abu-al-Majd] At the end of this dialogue, we thank Patriotic Union of Kurdistan leader Jalal Talabani. Thank you, Mr. Jalal.

[Talabani] Thank you, brother.

Zambia Decision To Cut Ties Called Reckless

JN1203132093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] The government of President Frederick Chiluba of Zambia on 11 March 1993 took a reckless and negative step when it decided to sever its diplomatic ties with the Republic of Iraq, using feeble, unfounded pretexts. It claimed there was intervention in Zambia's internal affairs and that Iraq supports Zambia's opposition parties, particularly the Unified National Independence Party.

The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Iraq on 9 March 1993 categorically denied what the Zambian president said in a speech on 4 March 1993 in which he unjustifiably mentioned Iraq's name when talking about internal problems in his country. The Foreign Ministry passed, through official channels, to the Zambian Foreign Ministry an Iraqi response to President Chiluba's remarks.

Regretting the decision by Mr. Chiluba's government to sever Zambia's diplomatic ties with Iraq, the Iraqi Foreign Ministry finds that the decision by Mr. Chiluba's government betrays his selfish and exposed political intentions and objectives. Therefore, the Government of the Republic of Iraq holds Mr. Chiluba's government in Zambia responsible for the consequences of this decision which harms the existing ties of friendship between the two friendly peoples in Iraq and Zambia.

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has learned that Zambia's government has also severed diplomatic ties with Iran for the same reasons. Iran responded in kind by closing the Zambian Embassy in Tehran and annulling all contracts and agreements signed between Iran and Zambia.

Regarding Zambia's diplomatic representation in Baghdad, there is no resident diplomatic representation on any level. The government of Mr. Chiluba of Zambia has not appointed any non-resident ambassador in Baghdad.

Reportage on Rabin's Activities in Washington

Aide on Meeting With U.S. Officials

TA1303054993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has held preparatory talks in Washington in advance of his meeting with President Bill Clinton next week. With us on the line from Washington is reporter Connie Lonn:

[Lonn] Prime Minister Rabin arrived in Washington and New York just prior to a major blizzard. He was able to meet for several hours Friday with Secretary of State Warren Christopher, national security adviser Tony Lake, and economic adviser Robert Rubin. Reporters were able to see the men huddled together in a photo session, but the prime minister would not answer our questions at this time. All that will be reserved for his important meeting with President Clinton at the White House on Monday. They are scheduled to meet for over three and a half hours and then hold a combined news conference together, in the East Room of the White House.

'Oded Ben-'Ami, the defense media adviser, said all major bilateral issues will be reviewed during the meeting with President Clinton and his advisers. We also asked him about the effect of the violence in Israel on the talks.

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] In regard of the security situation in Israel, Prime Minister Rabin once said that Israel is going to negotiate peace as if there is no terrorism but, at the same time, Israel is going to fight terrorism as if there is no peace talks. So, although it is very painful—and being here in Washington and hearing the news from Israel sometimes is much more difficult—the fight for peace will go on, as well as the campaign against terrorism.

[Lonn] Has the prime minister said anything about moves to perhaps give up the Gaza Strip?

[Ben-'Ami] Everything that has to do with the future of the region is part of the peace talks that, hopefully, will be resumed here in Washington in mid-April. So, I don't believe that anyone will elaborate out of this peace talks room here in Washington. [end recording]

[Lonn] 'Oded Ben-'Ami said the American officials who met with the prime minister discussed many of the serious problems facing the region. They included Muslim fundamentalism, terrorism, Syria, Iran, and the Palestinian situation. He said the prime minister has a good rapport with Warren Christopher and Tony Lake. We asked him whether the exceptionally long meeting with President Clinton next week means the Americans will exert pressure on Israel to make concessions. He said: We'll know after the meeting.

'Pleased' After Christopher Talks

TA1403094793 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 14 Mar 93 p 10

[Report by Washington correspondent Ron Ben-Yishay and political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer, accompanying Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's entourage to the United States]

[Text] The prime minister and his entourage came out pleased from the first round of talks with the U.S. Administration on Friday.

They got the impression that President Clinton and his administration will do all they can to advance the peace process: They will present original ideas to solve controversial substantive issues, and will even be prepared to compensate Israel for the security risks it will take if and when it will be called on to make concessions. The administration does not, however, plan to become a party to the peace negotiations, to exert economic or security pressure on Israel, or to call on it to take unreasonable risks.

In Rabin's meeting with Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Anthony Lake, the national security adviser, at Washington's Grand Hotel, the two made it clear that President Clinton would like during the current visit to significantly improve and tighten U.S.-Israeli relations—and the personal ties between Rabin and himself—compared with those that existed between the Bush administration and the Shamir government.

But in order to reach full coordination, the President has to know more or less what Israel is offering to break the deadlock in the peace process: what are its minimal demands from the Palestinians and the Syrians, how the Americans can assist Israel to minimize the security risks it will take upon itself, and how far the Americans can go, from Israel's viewpoint, in their involvement in the negotiations.

Rabin's meeting with Christopher and Lake dealt with general principles without going into details. Those will be dealt with in the 3.5-hour working session between Rabin and Clinton on Monday morning (Washington time).

On Syria, Rabin made it clear that he is at present unprepared to make a commitment—even in principle—about the limit of territorial concessions he would be prepared to make on the Golan Heights as long as Syria does not make a parallel commitment on full peace and normalization in relations with Israel. The reason: the internal situation in Syria is fluid. Al-Asad's health is unstable and he might disappear from the scene. Whoever takes over might ignore any commitments al-Asad makes if they are not anchored in a written and signed accord.

Furthermore, Syria continues to arm itself and is preparing for a military option. Only a signed full peace accord and normalization in relations between the two countries can compensate Israel for security dangers it will take upon itself in giving up territory on the Golan

Heights. Otherwise, Israel might face a situation in which the international community could force it to implement its commitment to withdraw from the heights while the Syrians would be merely committed to a nonbelligerency agreement. Such a move would constitute an unreasonable security risk.

In reference to the Palestinians, Rabin made it clear that he is pessimistic about their ability to currently enter into actual down to earth negotiations, and even more to commit themselves to something. He stressed that he would be prepared to make additional "nondramatic" steps toward the Palestinians, which would permit the Americans to bring them to the talks and would test their ability to reach an accord. This apparently refers to three fields: ending the deportees affair, changes in the Israeli autonomy plan, and additional steps to make life easier in the territories.

After Rabin's meeting with Christopher and Lake, the full U.S. and Israeli delegations, 12 on each side, met to discuss strategic- security issues. Rabin and Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri lectured to the Americans on the danger to Middle East and world stability emanating from Iran, and the threat from growing Islamic fundamentalism.

Following the political meeting, Rabin and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat conferred with the President's economic assistant Robert Rubin, who explained the President's economic plan and the need for budget cuts. It was made clear that the administration does not intend to cut aid to Israel in the coming year, but that cuts might be possible in the following years.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 14 March in a report by 'Aqiva Eldar, Ori Nir, Shlomo Shamir, and ITIM on pages A1 and 8, adds that Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni handed Rabin a message from Mubarak with a recommendation to offer the Palestinians concrete Israeli proposals. The Egyptians warn that if the Palestinians decide to stay away from the talks, it would make it difficult for the other Arab participants to come to the next round."]

'Turkish Option' To Be Discussed

TA1203144093

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 12 March carries a page-B 3 article by Yosi Melman, headed: "The Turkish Option Is Back." The article discusses the recent notion among Jerusalem policymakers that, in view of the rise in the power of fundamentalist Islam in the Middle East, the United States again has an interest in improved relations between Israel and Turkey.

Melman says that in his discussions in the United States, "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will raise issues that were not mentioned in the official statements." One of the issues will be "cultivating Turkey as a force to counter the rising Iranian influence in the Middle East." The article claims that "as a matter of fact, a discussion of this issue between the Israeli and the U.S. governments was already started during Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' visit to Washington last month. Following discussions held recently among senior Foreign Ministry and Prime Minister's Office officials in Jerusalem, a position paper was drafted. It is headed: 'Israeli, U.S., and Turkish Common Interests.'" The author of the article notes that the position is not new and, in fact, reprises a similar policy forged in the early 1950's, when it included Iran. The article goes on to describe at length developments in relations between the United States, Israel, Turkey, and Iran.

Returning to current issues, Melman says that the Foreign Ministry views the positive development of relations between Israel and Turkey since 1985, and the common features the two countries share, such as "being secular, pro-West, and having water and border disputes with Syria," and their recent concern over Iran's aspiration to attain a status of a regional superpower. Melman says that "U.S. intelligence sources told HA'ARETZ that the threat of fundamentalist Islam, as revealed through subversive Iranian activities in Turkey, promotes possible cooperation between Israel and Turkey."

The article adds that the Foreign Ministry believes it could help Turkish activities in central Asian, formerly Soviet, Muslim republics to counter Iranian efforts in this direction. "Israel has, in fact, already made an unofficial offer to Turkey to cooperate with it, but Ankara has not yet replied." Israel is, therefore, currently involved in only U.S. projects of economic aid to central Asian republics.

The article concludes by saying that "in view of these developments, Israeli policymakers believe that the United States, Turkey, and Israel share an interest in establishing a stable Middle East alliance, based on secular, moderate, and pro-Western regimes. A document drafted recently says: 'Israel has an interest in strengthening Turkey in view of the common interest they have in blocking Muslim fundamentalism.'"

Rabinovich on Upcoming Clinton Meeting

TA1403090093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States, says on the eve of the Rabin-Clinton meeting that decisions on the talks between Israel and Syria are premature and that Israel is still trying to persuade the Palestinians to come to the round of peace talks scheduled for next month. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports from New York:

[Begin recording] [Gutman] [passage omitted on weather in U.S. East Coast] A few hours before Prime Minister Rabin boards the train to Washington, we asked Prof. Rabinovich—who sat in on the consultations the prime minister held over the weekend in New York, what would be considered an achievement of the Rabin-Clinton meeting tomorrow.

[Rabinovich] Any outcome containing an element that builds personal working relations between the President and the prime minister—or to be more formal, between his administration and the Israeli Government; any basic understanding—the stress is on the word basic, not on details—would be considered an achievement and would enable us to term it a successful visit.

[Gutman] The Syrian issue is expected to feature prominently in the three-and-a-half-hour meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and President Clinton. Nevertheless, aides in Rabin's entourage assessed on the eve of the meeting that Israel would not be asked, at least not at this stage, to make decisions either in the Syrian or in the other tracks. Those who believe we have already reached a crossroads calling for decisions are jumping ahead of themselves, Ambassador Rabinovich said.

[Rabinovich] The feeling of the public at large and in the administration is that in the last few months Israel has taken some steps forward and that the ball is now mainly in the Arab court. Therefore, I do not think that the emphasis will be on presenting new ideas.

[Gutman] Despite the media focus on the Syrian track, Prof. Rabinovich addressed a message to the Palestinians, saying that it will be worth their while to return to the negotiating table since there will be something for them there.

[Rabinovich] If they behave smartly and take advantage of what has already been put on the table, there is potential for progress from their point of view as well.

[Gutman] The recent terror attacks in Israel have left their marks on Rabin's visit. In his meeting with Warren Christopher the prime minister raised the issue of expanding Muslim fundamentalism and noted Syrian-Iranian connections. As for the settlers' question why Rabin should not return to Israel at once, his spokesman said: The prime minister is here to hold meetings of utmost importance to the State of Israel. [passage omitted]

Rabinovich on U.S. Paper on Syria

TA1503074093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Telephone interview with Professor Itamar Rabinovich, ambassador to the United States and head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with Syria, in Washington, by Shalom Qital—live]

[Excerpt] [Qital] Are you optimistic, Professor Rabinovich?

[Rabinovich] Yes, reasonably.

[Qital] What do you expect will happen in the peace process?

[Rabinovich] Primarily, I hope it will resume on 20 April. I believe there are good chances it will. Later, we would like to see progress and the beginning of attaining agreements. What was missing over the last few months of the negotiations—say between September and December 1992—was active involvement by a U.S. Administration that everyone knows has at least four years ahead of it. We have such an administration now. It has already proven that it wants to invest efforts in the Middle East and the peace process. It set up an excellent professional team. The secretary of state has already invested time and effort, and the President is currently devoting his time, despite his commitments to domestic affairs. Tomorrow, we will hear firsthand just how far this President is willing to go. It will certainly be an important tool in promoting the peace process.

[Qital] Prof. Rabinovich, MA'ARIV is carrying a report this morning claiming that there is an American document according to which Syria is ready to forgo a Palestinian state. What is your reaction to this?

[Rabinovich] I do not know that such a document exists. In the talks between August and December, we heard of at least a verbal Syrian commitment to the Palestinian issue. Nevertheless, we know that during that time, Syrian spokesmen such as the foreign minister and others told the Palestinians: We might not have accepted an interim solution—meaning less than a state—as you did in Madrid; however, since you agreed to that, this is the situation. That is to say that according to the Madrid framework or conditions, under which we will be negotiating for at least the next five years, no one is discussing a Palestinian state. As far as Syria is concerned, if the Palestinians agreed to that, there is no reason for Syria not to. Therefore, even if I am not familiar with such a document, the fact that a Syrian demand for a Palestinian state was not raised is not new. [passage omitted]

Golan Possible Topic of Talks

TA1503110293 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Mar 93 pp A1, A8

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar, Shlomo Shamir, Ori Nir, and news agencies]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will clarify to U.S. President Bill Clinton today that he would be prepared in principle to recognize Syria's sovereignty over the Golan Heights. A senior Israeli minister, who recently spoke with Rabin on this subject, said that the prime minister left no doubt that he has reached the conclusion that the chance to make peace with Syria is real and far better than the prospects of an accord with the Palestinians.

According to the senior minister, Rabin will agree to the proposal for a phased Israeli withdrawal from all of the Golan Heights in return for peace and normalization, security guarantees, and satisfactory early warning arrangements. Israel's withdrawal would be staged over a period of several years, which is acceptable to the Syrians. Another important condition is that Prime Minister Rabin and President Clinton reach prior understanding on political issues and agree to coordinate positions during the negotiations. [passage omitted on Rabin interview with THE NEW YORK TIMES journalist Leslie Gelb]

A senior Israeli official in New York said that the prime minister spoke very optimistically yesterday about the nature his talks with the administration are assuming. In meetings with senior Israeli officials yesterday, the prime minister expressed great satisfaction with the kind of relationship he is forming with top U.S. officials.

The Israeli sources in New York said that the prime minister is striving to establish a firm and reliable basis for a dialogue that would prevent any future misunderstandings between the administration and the Israeli Government. "Rabin is seeking to establish a relationship based on complete frankness on both sides," the sources noted.

Rabin is also pleased with the fact that Secretary of State Warren Christopher was a party to the efforts to forge a strong relationship between Israel and the Administration. [passage omitted on Rabin's scheduled meetings in the United States]

The senior minister who spoke with the prime minister estimated that Rabin has no intention of changing his positions with regard to the principles of the autonomy plan for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which have already been presented to the Palestinians. During the previous round of talks, it was made clear to the Palestinian delegation that the Palestinian self-government authority would assume most of the powers currently held by the Israeli Civil Administration.

Elyaqim Rubinstein, the head of the Israeli delegation to the peace talks with the Palestinians, declared that there are no plans to set up a separate authority for the Jewish settlers. Any Israeli in the territories would have to go to the Palestinian authorities regarding any issue not directly pertaining to the Jewish settlements. Rabin has no intention of backing down from these principles. The prime minister will claim that as long as discussions are being held on a temporary arrangement only and the issue of sovereignty is not on the agenda, Israel will continue to be responsible for the security of the settlements and their access roads. [passage omitted on Rabin's scheduled meeting with Clinton today]

Rabin Said Meeting 'Friend in White House'

TA1403101493 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 14 Mar 93 p 2

[Editorial by Yesha'yahu Ben-Porat: "A Meeting With a Friend"]

[Text] A day before the Clinton-Rabin meeting, it is not worth trying to forecast the practical outcome on the political and strategic level, which will be the focus of the talks. But without risking a bad bet, we can assume that this summit meeting, the first in the Clinton era, will be a success story.

This evaluation derives from the awareness that the prime minister will find a friend in the White House, who like himself, is interested in progress in the peace process, and is ready to make the necessary effort to bring the parties back to the negotiating table.

On the basis of what he heard from the secretary of state after his trip to the region, Clinton knows how much Rabin is committed to the process and the parameters of his readiness in principle to make concessions. We can assume that in their tete-a-tete meeting, Clinton will want to hear from Rabin in more detail about his ideas for the future of the Golan Heights and a settlement with the Palestinians. It is very likely that under the cover of secrecy, Rabin will respond by saying things that even the Israeli inner cabinet has not heard. In return, it can be expected that the prime minister will ask what the administration aspires to by deepening its involvement in the process, and what type of strategic commitments the United States is willing to make to Israel's security.

Compared to his predecessor Yitzhaq Shamir, who in a very unstatesmanlike way wished Rabin failure in his mission, we wish the prime minister success. There is reason to believe that most Israelis are hoping for a resumption of the peace talks and realize that without a significant understanding with the U.S. Administration and without its intensive involvement, no progress will be achieved.

Egyptian Envoy on al-Asad, Golan Heights

TA1403121393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Egypt's ambassador to Israel, Muhammad Basyuni, said today there is no reason to assume that Syria's President Hafiz al-Asad will accept an agreement that gives him less on the Golan Heights than the Egyptian precedent in Sinai. Basyuni was addressing the annual conference of the World Sephardi Federation in Israel. Le'a Zinder reports:

Amb. Basyuni told his audience that President al-Asad would not be easy in negotiations with Israel, but said he would be most reliable in the application of any agreement. Basyuni said Syria had not once violated its 1974 disengagement agreement with Israel, but the ambassador made clear President al-Asad was demanding a high price for peace.

[Begin Basyuni recording] There is no reason to assume and there is no evidence that President al-Asad intends to accept less than the application of the Egyptian precedent. I have worked with him long enough to know that although he will not be easy in the negotiations, he will be very reliable in implementing the results. [end recording]

Afterwards, speaking to reporters, the Egyptian ambassador was asked if his country was trying to persuade Syria to return to the peace talks on 20 April.

[Begin recording] [Basyuni] As I told you, it is not a kind of putting pressure or something like that, because don't forget that we are an Arab country, and we are trying to do our best with our friends, with our brothers.

[Zinder] Do you believe that Syria will in fact be at the resumption of the talks?

[Basyuni] As I told you, we have now obstacles to the road, and I hope that till 20 April we can remove these obstacles from the road to peace to the negotiations, so that we can resume the talks.

[Zinder] What are the obstacles?

[Basyuni] The deportation.

[Zinder] And you expect Israel to take further measures?

[Basyuni] I am saying that we are trying with all the parties concerned to reach understanding that will be satisfying to all the parties concerned. [end recording]

Peres Affirms Priority of Negotiations With Syrians

*TA1403180293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1705 GMT 14 Mar 93*

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres this evening addressed a gathering at the National Defense College. Our correspondent Ron Nesi'el reports:

The gathering was postponed because of a long telephone conversation between Foreign Minister Peres and Prime Minister Rabin, currently in the United States. In his lecture, the foreign minister dealt with relations between security and democracy. As an example, he broached the subject of negotiations with the Palestinians. Peres said that Israel is negotiating with people who do not know the meaning of democracy. In such negotiations it is more difficult to convince your own people to make concessions than it is to convince the other side:

[Begin Peres recording] Let us consider what happens to a nation or an organization that does not have elected representatives—the Palestinians and the PLO leadership are a ready example. Every morning they face the necessity of proving to their people that they are firm, strong, and unrelenting and that Israel is not being flexible enough. They begin every day with tears. I am perfectly aware of the fact that it is very difficult to hold negotiations in such conditions.

If we consider Syria, on the other hand, we see a regime that is far from being a democracy, but at least it is a longstanding regime. With Syria we have a partner for negotiations, even though we still do not have an agreement on these negotiations. With the Arabs we have an agreement on the negotiations, but we do not have a partner with whom to conduct the negotiations [sentence as heard]. [end recording]

From these remarks we can readily discern the priority given at this moment to negotiations with Syria over the negotiations with the Palestinians. Foreign Minister Peres said that the negotiations with the Arabs do not relate only to matters of borders and territories but also to a way of life enabling people to live in conditions of freedom and democracy. This will also be the basis for a new partnership with the United States based not only on our being a strategic asset but on a political partnership as well.

Hundreds of Golan Settlers Riot in Attempt To Cross Border

*TA1503102093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1000 GMT 15 Mar 93*

[Text] Hundreds of Jewish residents of the Golan Heights are trying at this hour to break through the al-Qunaytirah border crossing with Syria. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv has just reported that dozens of policemen and soldiers are holding them back. The demonstrators have set tires on fire and are exchanging blows with the guards.

Demonstrators Protest State of Internal Security

*TA1403052493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0500 GMT 14 mar 93*

[Text] Several demonstrations were held last night outside the homes of the government officials in charge of security. Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur promised to put up fences and pave security roads this week in the Qatif Bloc in the Gaza Strip. Gur made these remarks to our correspondent Shim'on Vilna'i at the end of a demonstration outside his home.

Hundreds demonstrated outside the home of Interior Minister Arye Der'i in Jerusalem, and our correspondent Ya'el Ayalon reports that at least 30 of them were taken into custody. A similar demonstration was staged opposite Police Minister Moshe Shahal's home in Haifa.

Minister Proposes PLO-Led Palestinian State in Gaza

*TA1403124293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1230 GMT 14 Mar 93*

[Text] Minister Yosi Sarid proposes to establish a PLO-led Palestinian state in the Gaza Strip. Sarid made this proposal at this morning's cabinet meeting. He believes that if this is not done, the Gaza Strip will remain stuck in Israel's throat in a way that is both painful and dangerous.

Our correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar reports that the cabinet decided to increase the police and Border Police personnel and to take action in the coming week toward replacing 1,000 Arab workers from the territories by Jewish employees.

Further on Sarid Comments

TA1403133293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Environment Minister Yosi Sarid said that the PLO leadership should be allowed to set up offices in the Gaza Strip with its primary task to combat and quash terrorist activity and rehabilitate the Gaza Strip's economy through massive aid from the international community.

Minister Sarid added that Israel should first of all discuss the nature of autonomy with the PLO leadership in the Gaza Strip and only then move on to discuss permanent arrangements in the territories.

Sarid warned that if this was not done, the Gaza Strip will remain stuck in Israel's throat.

Cabinet To Increase Supervision of Arabs Entering Israel

TA1403142793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] In its meeting today, the cabinet decided to increase supervision of Arabs traveling from the Gaza Strip into Israel. Minister Arye Der'i recommended a complete shutdown of the Gaza Strip for a week to calm tempers and decrease the number of attacks. Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, chief of staff, opposed this proposal. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that another discussion will be held on this issue.

The cabinet also decided to boost police manpower, call on the public to volunteer for the Civil Guard, and implement a series of measures to encourage Jews to work on Jewish farms both in the territories and within the Green Line.

Gaza Notables Oppose Unilateral Withdrawal From Strip

TA1403194993 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Over the last few days there have been dozens of appeals by public personages and businessmen from the Gaza Strip to the Civil Administration requesting that Israel not unilaterally withdraw from the Gaza Strip. Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports that the Arab notables warn against the danger of anarchy and an economic crisis in the Gaza Strip, which would result in bloodshed and the continuation of terrorism.

Six Gaza Strip Residents Wounded by IDF Fire

TA1403203093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Petrol bombs were thrown at Egged buses in Hebron and Al-Birah this evening. There were no casualties, and no damage was caused. In one of the incidents, which occurred near the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron, five gasoline bombs were thrown at a bus. The security forces sealed off the area and launched a search.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that Khan Yunus remained under curfew today, with searches continuing after the murderers of Uri Megidish and Simha Levi. Four residents of the Jabalyah refugee camp and two residents of Rafah were wounded by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers fire during stone throwing incidents in the Gaza Strip today.

Police Reorganize Operations To Meet Security Needs

TA1203173293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] In view of the deterioration in the state of internal security, Israel Police have decided to reorganize all their operations throughout the country for several weeks beginning today. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that under instructions from Police Commissioner Terner, police district commanders will beef up day and night deployment at the expense of other tasks. Operational, investigative, and intelligence activities will also be intensified, the network of stationary and mobile roadblocks will be amplified, and searches along roads leading to Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza will be expanded. Special emphasis will be placed on locating territories residents staying without a permit inside the Green Line.

At the same time, the police call on the public to exercise caution, and civilians who have a license for a gun, are urged to carry them at all times to enhance their own and others' security.

Cabinet Increases Police Force, Criticizes Call to Arms

TA1403124893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] In its meeting today the cabinet decided to recruit more personnel to Israel Police to deal with the surge of terror. Nevertheless, Police Commissioner Ya'aqov Terner said that this decision would affect security conditions only in six months.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that several ministers criticized Terner's call to Israelis with a license to carry their guns at all times. Police Minister Moshe Shahal objected to it, saying it does not solve the security problem because of the way Israelis might interpret it.

Interior Minister Arye Der'i said he was sorry the commissioner had not coordinated his statement with his ministry. Der'i believes that the public has too many weapons already, and this could lead to a Wild West-like situation. He noted that a commission he set up to deal with the issue following a previous terrorist attack is scheduled to complete its work this week.

Minister Shulamit Aloni said the public should be put at ease rather than be encouraged to draw guns. Minister Yosi Sarid supported Terner's pronouncement, saying terror should be fought and sentenced to death by means of the peace process.

Our correspondent points out that other measures to increase security were decided upon, but these will not be publicized.

Minister Mikha Harish said that the decisions are meant to make sure that the peace process continues, without impairing security in Israel and in the Palestinian street.

The cabinet also decided to take steps by the end of this week to replace 1,000 Arabs from the territories working in agriculture with Jewish laborers, by subsidizing the latter's wages and paying their transportation fees.

Opposition Voiced to Arming Civilians

TA1403123493 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Mar 93 p A 1

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "A Decline in Our Deterrent Capability"]

[Text] Israelis are currently witnessing one of the gravest waves of terror in this country's history. Although it is mainly unorganized terror, the perpetrators of the knifings have been successful. Reactions by Israelis, sometimes bordering on hysterical, and police recommendations that civilians carry arms, bring the terrorists to the conclusion that they have managed to disrupt Israelis' way of life.

Security officials warned Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on the eve of his trip to the United States that many Israelis feel that their personal safety has been jeopardized in the current wave of terror. The Arabs say that it is not only the Palestinians in the territories who now know what fear is, but also the Israelis. The general feeling, which is supported by army officers, is that there has been a decline in Israel's deterrent capability against Palestinian terrorism in the territories and inside Israel itself.

A further deterioration could also disrupt the peace process because Israel might be forced to take countermeasures against the Palestinians and because the Israeli public's support for the peace process might be weakened. Such a development would, of course, be considered a success by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], which opposes the political process. The leaders of that organization hope that continuing the wave of stabbings will bring about a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip. They give as evidence the current debate in Israel on when and how to withdraw from the strip. The feeling in Hamas, and not only in that organization, is that success will lead to further success.

The investigations into the latest murders of Simha Levi in the Gaza Strip and Yehoshua Friedberg, the Golani Brigade soldier, off the main Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway, are in their initial phases. At present, the identity of the perpetrators is not know. While in the case of Levi, one cannot dispel the feeling that she took enormous risks in travelling to the Gaza Strip alone, the murder of the soldier in the heart of the country is regarded as a very grave act. The fact that the soldier was not shot with his own weapon points to the possibility that the attack was well planned in advance.

Security officials criticize the police call to civilians to bear arms. Opponents of the move believe that in making the recommendation the police have persuaded the public to believe that there is a state of national emergency.

The anticipated security recommendations will apparently focus on tightening steps against Palestinians, although if the peace process is resumed Israel has a vested interested in the welfare of the inhabitants. Special attention will be focused on the Gaza Strip with the claim that there are areas there, especially in the refugee camps, which are in fact being run by Arabs wanted by the Israeli security forces.

Violent Acts Across Country Reported

'Afula, Qatzrin Area Violence

TA1503074293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] A tourist was stabbed in 'Afula this morning. He was taken to Ha'emeq Hospital, which reported that he is suffering from moderate wounds. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that after stabbing the tourist, the assailant, who came from Nabulus, attempted to stab another person, but the latter and other passersby, including Knesset Member Gonen Segev, caught him and turned him over to the police. The police sent large forces to 'Afula to maintain order and is sending back residents from the territories.

This morning, a Druze resident of the village of Buq'ata was shot in the chest by a resident of Qatzrin who suspected the Druze was a terrorist. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the man is badly hurt. The police suspect the shooter was drunk. He was detained and is being currently questioned by the Qatzrin Police.

Last night, the security forces sealed the home of Nidal 'Omar Ahmad in the Jabalyah refugee camp. He attempted to murder a youth, Asaf Dayan, last Friday near the Erez passage. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reported this morning that the security forces also sealed the homes of two resident of Khan Yunus who are suspected of murdering Uri Megidish. The police are familiar with the two, but they have not yet been captured.

Palestinian Infant Shot by Soldiers Dies

TA1403115293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] A three-year-old Palestinian infant from Hebron has died of her wounds after soldiers fired at the car in which she was traveling last night. The Army spokesman says the father of the girl who was driving the car noticed that he was approaching an Army checkpoint, then made a U-turn and tried to escape despite calls from soldiers to stop.

Soldiers Wounded in Hebron; Bomb in 'Afula

TA1303054893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 13 mar 93

[Text] In Hebron, two soldiers were wounded yesterday evening when their patrol came under fire. One of the soldiers suffered medium wounds, the other was lightly hurt. Both were taken to hospital. The area of the attack was placed under curfew and a search was launched.

Security forces have arrested a Palestinian on their wanted list. Twenty-two-year-old Usamah Muhammad Hamid Mughrabi was detained in the village of Bayt Sahur near Jerusalem. IDF [Israel Defense Forces] sources told Qol Yisra'el that Mughrabi, a resident of a refugee camp near Janin, is a member of the Fatah organization. He is suspected of attacking fellow Palestinians for allegedly aiding Israeli authorities.

A bomb went off last night in the town of 'Afula in the Yizre'el Valley. No one was hurt and there was no damage. The charge was apparently tossed from a passing car. Police sealed off and searched the area.

IDF Soldier's Death Noted

TA1203162193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] The police believe that nationalistic motives were behind the murder of serviceman Yehoshu'a Friedberg from Jerusalem. The Jerusalem Police spokesman told our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum that the murder will be investigated by a special police team, in cooperation with Investigative Military Police and the Shin Bet.

Serviceman Yehoshu'a Friedberg's body was found in a thicket in the vicinity of the Sho'eva junction off the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway. He was killed by three or four bullets in the chest.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Yehoshu'a Friedberg, who immigrated from Canada to Israel in 1991, volunteered for service in the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] Golani Brigade. The soldier's parents are on their way from Canada to Israel.

Hebron Youth Killed by IDF

TA1203133693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] A 17-year-old Arab youth was shot dead by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunfire in downtown Hebron. The soldiers saw the youth setting tires on fire and hurling stones and ordered him to stop. When he did not respond, they opened fire. Our correspondent Rina Matzliah reports that the wounded youth was brought to the local hospital, where he died of his injuries. The IDF is investigating the circumstances of the incident.

Ministers, Likud Members Oppose Unity Government

TA1403090493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Four cabinet ministers are categorically opposed to the establishment of a national unity government [in view of the internal security situation]. Interviewed by our correspondent Razi Barqay, Ministers 'Uzi Bar'am, Yosi Sarid, Ora Namir, and Hayim Ramon said that the inclusion of the Likud in the government would undermine the chances of attaining peace.

Of the four contenders for the Likud's leadership, Beni Begin and Binyamin Netanyahu also said they were categorically opposed to a national unity government. David Levi said this would have to be initiated by the prime minister and would depend on the basic guidelines he proposes for the government. Moshe Qatzav favored the establishment of a unity government, on condition that it changes Israel's foreign and defense policy.

PLO's Faruq Qaddumi Arrives on Working Visit

JN1203154793 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, chief of the PLO Political Department, arrived in Amman today from Syria on a short working visit to Jordan. The visit is part of a tour of the region to explore prospects for the peace process and its future development in light of the official invitations received by the concerned parties to take part in the ninth round of peace talks scheduled for 20 April in Washington.

Views Peace Process

JN1203182793 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, chief of the PLO Political Department, arrived in Amman today from Syria on a short working visit to Jordan. The visit is part of a tour of the region to explore prospects for the peace process and its future development in light of the official invitations received by the concerned parties to take part in the ninth round of peace talks scheduled for 20 April in Washington.

In an arrival statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Qaddumi said that His Majesty King Husayn's stands toward resuming the peace process have a pan-Arab character and stem from Jordan's concern with making the peace process succeed, in accordance with international resolutions and in a manner that guarantees the Palestinians' legitimate political rights within the context of implementing international legitimacy.

He added: We are with His Majesty King Husayn when he says that we are a joint delegation, that our cause is one, and that harming this cause through Israeli practices in the occupied territories does damage to the peace process and prevents its success.

Qaddumi affirmed that Jordan's position, as expressed by His Majesty King Husayn, means urging the United States and Russia to do their utmost to make Israel stop its arbitrary practices in the occupied territories and return all the deportees immediately, in accordance with Security Council Resolution 799 and in compliance with international legitimacy.

Answering a question on the Palestinian position toward resuming the peace process on 20 April, Qaddumi said: U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher met in Jerusalem, during his first visit to the region, with a delegation from the occupied Palestinian territories. The delegation handed him a memorandum in the name of the Palestinians, which came to be known as the six-point [memorandum]. This memorandum included Palestinian demands necessary for the resumption of peace talks and upon which any just peace must be based.

He added that the Palestinian memorandum stresses that the new U.S. Administration should declare that the peace process is based on UN resolutions, the land-for-peace principle, achieving the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people, implementing Resolution 799 calling for the immediate return of all the deportees, as well as returning some of the Palestinians deported in 1976, respecting the rights of the Palestinians, and stopping Israeli terrorist practices against Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Qaddumi affirmed that Palestinians will suspend their participation in the peace negotiations if nothing happens to their demands and if Israel does not respond to them. This decision applies to both the bilateral and multilateral talks.

Answering a question on the Arab position toward resuming the peace process and the expected Arab response to the invitation to hold the ninth round on 20 April, Qaddumi said: The Arab parties participating in the peace process, including the Palestinians, will hold a meeting at the foreign minister level after the blessed 'Id al-Fitr holiday to make a decision in this regard.

Qaddumi denied statements attributed to him that the Arab states will take part in one or two rounds to test U.S. intentions. He added: I am not a spokesman for Arab states, but I speak for the Palestinians, and such statements are simply not true.

Says PLO 'in Direct Contact' With U.S.

JN1403112893 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 14 Mar 93 pp 1, 21

[Excerpts] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received in his office at noon yesterday Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department. [passage omitted]

In statements to journalists following the meeting, Qaddumi emphasized that the Jordanian and Palestinian viewpoints on the issues discussed were identical, especially those stressing the importance of returning all the deportees, and referred to the six points dealing with the deportees, which the United States accepted and which facilitate the resumption of the peace process. [passage omitted]

Answering a question on resolving the deportee issue in stages, something the U.S. Administration appears to support, Qaddumi said: We refuse the deals concluded by the United States and Israel, and Israel should implement Resolution 799 on the deportees in compliance with the international legitimacy.

On reports about separate solutions with Israel, Qaddumi ruled out that any Arab party would conclude a separate solution, and said that such reports are merely rumors aimed at damaging the unified Arab position.

He added that during his stay in Damascus, it was emphasized that the comprehensive solution was what was agreed on during the first coordination meeting of the cordon states that was held when the peace process started.

On whether there is a contradiction between the PLO and the Hamas Movement on the deportees, he said: Hamas is part of and a faction in the Palestinian national movement and the PLO is the command of this national movement. He stressed: Despite the different viewpoints and political identity of the deportees we are directly concerned with solving this problem.

He said the talks also dealt with joint coordination and consultations regarding the meeting of the Arab cordon states, proposed to be held soon.

He said: The decision on returning to the negotiations is linked with the elimination of obstacles preventing this return, and with Israel's commitment to repatriate the deportees to their homeland in implementation of the international legitimacy resolutions, represented by Security Council Resolution 799.

Qaddumi said the PLO is in direct contact with the United States, and that a Palestinian delegation will visit Washington. He did not, however, set a date for the visit.

Meets King Husayn, Abu-Jabir

JN1403174593 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, and PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas at the Royal Hashemite Court today.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed Jordanian-Palestinian relations and discussed developments in the peace process. They emphasized the importance of coordination among all Arab parties, particularly the Jordanian and Palestinian parties. Discussions also dealt with obstacles facing the peace process, especially the issue of Palestinian deportees and Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories. Emphasis was placed on the need to solve the deportee problem to serve the regional peace march.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, foreign minister; His Highness Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, the king's military secretary; and al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, the Palestinian ambassador to the Kingdom.

In addition, Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir received in his office today Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, and Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the PLO Executive Committee. The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministry secretary general and the Palestinian ambassador in Amman.

Talks With Abu-Jabir, Makes Statement

JN1403191793 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 1800 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] The Jordanian-Palestinian talks, which began yesterday, resumed at the Foreign Ministry today. Kamil Abu-Jabir, foreign minister, and Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, reviewed all aspects of the peace process and obstacles placed by Israel in the path of resuming the negotiations.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Ministry Secretary General Husayn Hamami, PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, and Palestine's Ambassador in Jordan al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim.

After the meeting, Qaddumi spoke with our correspondent for political affairs.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr. Faruq, what was the focus of your talks at the Foreign Ministry today?

[Qaddumi] This morning we held detailed discussions on the peace process and the obstacles facing it, especially the issue of the deportees. We also discussed solutions that could be presented to remove these obstacles to the peace process as well as reinforcing Arab coordination, especially since we, in Jordan and Palestine, should be very concerned with this Arab cooperation and coordination in order to unify the Arab stand in a manner that would strengthen our negotiating cards.

[Correspondent] Can we say that Faysal al-Husayni's visit to London and his talks were aimed at revealing the horizons and dimensions of a future European role?

[Qaddumi] Yes, this is one of our tours, especially since brother Faysal al-Husayni was accompanied by two members of the PLO Political Department. This is considered recognition of the PLO. That was our condition. The invitation which was extended to one of our brothers in the occupied territories is something we approve of and try to achieve. However, the PLO has to be present in all these meetings. In other words, there is an official recognition by the European states that the PLO, with which these three brothers are affiliated, represents the Palestinian people. [end recording]

Discussess Area Issues

LD1403205993 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Brother Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], member of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the PLO Political Department, met with His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, Jordanian prime minister, who received him at his office yesterday.

During the meeting, bilateral relations, the continued coordination efforts between the two parties toward the peace process in general, and the difficulties and obstacles facing it, in particular the issue of the deportees, which has not yet been resolved, were discussed.

Also reviewed at the meeting were the results of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region, and the role of the United States, as one of the co-sponsors of the peace process, in pushing forward the peace process. Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, Jordanian foreign affairs minister; brother Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], member of the PLO Executive Committee; and al-Tayyib 'Abd- al-Rahim, ambassador of Palestine in Jordan, were also present at the meeting.

After the meeting, brother Abu-al-Lutf declared in statements to journalists that Palestinian-Jordanian points of view correspond on the issues discussed; in particular they correspond in emphasizing the return of all the deportees, referring to the importance of the six points which the United States agreed to in connection with the return of the deportees.

Asked about the deportees' return in stages, he said that deals between Israel and the United States are rejected. Israel must implement Resolution 799 in connection with the deportees in compliance with international legitimacy, he stated.

Brother Abu-al-Lutf said that before a resumption of the talks the new U.S. Administration should stress the bases on which the peace process has been built; that is, the resolutions of international legitimacy, including Resolution 242, the principle of land for peace, the establishment of the national rights of the Palestinian people, and the need to deal with the issue of Jerusalem.

Brother Abu-al-Lutf ruled out the possibility of any Arab party's concluding a unilateral solution with Israel, pointing out that this falls within the sphere of rumors which aim at penetrating the unified Arab stance. In a reply to a question, he said that during his presence in Damascus emphasis was in particular laid on a comprehensive solution in the region. This is what was agreed on during the first coordinating meeting for the cordon countries which coincided with the start of the peace process, he stated.

About the Hamas Movement, brother Abu-al-Lutf said that is a part and a group of the Palestinian national movement, and that the PLO is the leader of this national movement. He pointed out that there is no contradiction between the PLO and Hamas in connection with the deportees issue; we are all concerned with solving this problem, he said.

Expects 'Positive Results' From U.S.

JN1303200093 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received in his office today Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, in the presence of Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir, PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, and Palestinian ambassador in Amman al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim.

During their meeting, the two sides discussed Jordanian-Palestinian relations, continued coordination between the two sides on the peace process, in general, as well as difficulties and obstacles to the continuation of this process, foremost among them being the unresolved issue of Palestinian deportees.

Discussion also dealt with the outcome of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region and the role of the United States as a cosponsor in advancing the peace negotiations.

In a statement to our correspondent for political affairs, Qaddumi said:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr. Faruq, if you please, what is the philosophy behind your refusal to receive the Russian-U.S. invitation? Do you think this might have been a prejudgment given that the Arab coordination meeting, which will determine Arab participation in the talks, has yet to take place?

[Qaddumi] There is no philosophy. However, there are six points that require a positive response because it is not easy to discuss a settlement that has lost its bases—bases which were defined by President Bush in his 1991 initiative.

[Reporter] Are you waiting for positive responses from the United States following Rabin's meetings [in Washington]?

[Qaddumi] We are hoping for positive results from the United States. This is a new administration which must emphasize the bases of a political settlement, including the resolutions of international legitimacy—242, the land-for-peace principle, and the national rights of the Palestinian people. Here, we must stress the issue of Jerusalem. [end recording]

Bin-Shakir Confers With Qaddumi

JN1303125293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in English 1200 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir met at his office today the head of the Political Department of the Palestine Liberation Organization Mr. Faruq Qaddumi. Discussion at the meeting focused on Jordanian-Palestinian relations and Middle East peace talks.

Discussion at the meeting also dealt with the results of the recent tour which U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher made to the Middle East region. The talks also dealt with the dispatch of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace talks in Washington but no date has been fixed. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir.

Abu-Jabir on Meeting; Qaddumi Remarks

JN1303101493 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Mar 93 pp 1, 5

[By P.V. Vivekanand, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—The Arab parties to peace talks with Israel will meet at ministerial level in Damascus on March 28 and 29 to discuss the stalled Middle East peace process, Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir said Friday.

Dr. Abu-Jabir said Jordan's response to the recently issued American-Russian invitation to the next round of peace talks in Washington in April would be announced after the Damascus meeting.

Dr. Abu-Jabir said he received the invitation to attend the Damascus talks from his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar', who called him over the phone last night.

"We will be going to the meeting," he said.

In addition to the Jordanian and Syrian foreign ministers, the two-day meeting will also be attended by the foreign minister of Lebanon and the head of the political department of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Faruq Qaddumi, as well as the foreign minister of Egypt.

The central theme of the meeting is expected to be how to relaunch the peace process, in limbo since the Dec. 17 Israeli expulsion of more than 400 Palestinians to South Lebanon.

The Palestinians have said that they would stay away from the peace talks until Israel allows the return of the expellees, now stranded between Israel and Lebanese army lines.

Mr. Qaddumi, who arrived here Friday after talks in Damascus, told reporters in the Syrian capital that "if Washington and Israel fail to respond to Palestinian demands, the bilateral and multilateral meetings will be suspended."

Jordan has been non-committal on its attendance at the peace talks and Syria and Lebanon have not commented on the issue.

"We have to consult with Arab partners," on the invitation, which sets the ninth round of bilateral talks to begin in Washington on April 20, Dr. Abu-Jabir told the Jordan Times Friday. "Hopefully we will come up with a solution" to the hurdles in the talks, he added in a reference to the expellee crisis.

Syria, which had been lukewarm to the idea of Damascus hosting an Arab meeting on the expulsions, appeared to shift its stand when it said in late January that it would convene an Arab coordination meeting on how to relaunch the peace process.

The announcement, which followed a meeting in Geneva between Mr. al-Shar' and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, said the objective of the Arab talks were to enable all Arab parties to resume the peace talks "in a comfortable and agreeable atmosphere."

Mr. Qaddumi arrived here from Damascus Friday after talks with Mr. al-Shar' on the peace process and Syrian-Palestinian political relations.

Dr. Abu-Jabir said he was scheduled to meet with the PLO official Saturday. Discussions with centre on the peace process and other issues that are directly related to Jordanian-Palestinian coordination.

In public comments, PLO officials and Palestinian delegates to the talks are insisting on the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 799, which calls on Israel to allow the return of the expellees. But they are also involved in behind-the-scene efforts to get Israel to agree to an American-brokered six-point proposal which envisages a phased return of the exiles.

Jordan has said that while it remains fully committed to the peace process, it would be difficult for it to attend the peace talks if the Palestinians stayed away.

In a recent interview with American television, His Majesty King Husayn noted that it was under a Jordanian umbrella that the Palestinians were participating in the peace talks and as such there was little sense in "half a delegation."

The Jordanian approach to the expellee crisis is from the vantage point that Israeli expulsion of Palestinians from the occupied territories is part of the broader conflict.

"The entire Palestinian nation is in exile," said a senior official. "We cannot lose sight of the reality that the peace process aims at resolving the root conflict."

In comments carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Qaddumi said Jordan's position vis-a-vis the peace process reflected the Kingdom's "keen interest in bringing the peace efforts to a successful end in a way that ensures that the Palestinians will regain their legitimate political rights."

"We fully agree with His Majesty's position that we (Jordanians and Palestinians) are a joint delegation and we have a common cause," he said. "Any harm to this cause through Israeli practices in the occupied territories is directed against the peace process and placing obstacles in its path."

"The Jordanian stand expressed by King Husayn is designed to urge the U.S. and Russia to exert all efforts to prevent Israel from its repressive measures in the occupied territories and the work towards the immediate return of all expellees in accordance with... Resolution 799," he said.

On prospects for the resumption of peace talks on April 20, Mr. Qaddumi said: "When the Palestinian delegation met with Mr. Christopher in Jerusalem (during his recent Middle East visit), a six-point memo was presented to him in the name of the Palestinian people. It included the Palestinian conditions for the resumption of the peace talks and on which any just peace settlement should be based."

Foreign Minister Views Peace Talks, Deportees

NC1503083093 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Telephone interview with Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir, in Amman, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Minister, welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Abu-Jabir] Thank you.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] You have met PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi in Amman. What happened at the meeting?

[Abu-Jabir] First, we reviewed overall Middle East developments in the past few weeks and months. Second, we reviewed the talks that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher held in the region and the results of his tour. Third, we focused on the deportees and the need for Israel to observe international resolutions, notably Resolution 799. Fourth, we reviewed the meeting scheduled for Damascus on 28-29 March at the invitation of Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. The meeting seeks to adopt a unified Arab position on every issue on the table.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. Abu-Jabir, the peace process is at a serious turning point because Israel deported over 400 Palestinians. What is Jordan's position on the peace process?

[Abu-Jabir] Jordan's position is firm. We are committed to the peace process; we need to adhere to it and prevent Israel from evading or maneuvering over it.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Minister, the Palestinian delegation refuses to participate in the next round of talks. You have a joint delegation with the Palestinians, so what will your position be?

[Abu-Jabir] There are two points here. First, there is a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, but, as you know, the Jordanian side to the delegation speaks for Jordan while the Palestinian side speaks for the Palestinians. Second, we have time, about 35 days, in which to work before the ninth round of talks next month. We believe that in this time, we must find a good, suitable solution to the deportees problem, one that is acceptable to the Palestinian brothers.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] You say this period will see a breakthrough. Have you sensed that the Palestinians might attend the next round of talks?

[Abu-Jabir] This question must be put to the Palestinians. But we believe there is enough time—over a month—before the ninth round is held. As you know, there are rapid and ongoing attempts—particularly by brothers 'Amr Musa and Faruq al-Shar'—to reach a reasonable solution to the deportees problem. So we have time. We in Jordan insist on Arab coordination. We believe that the peace process—which some call the battle for peace—affects all Arab countries just like any military battle the Arabs have fought. We insist on Arab coordination and believe that coordination among the Arab countries around Israel, that is, the four countries plus Egypt, will ultimately lead to Arab accord. These meetings, hopefully, can now form a nucleus for a unified Arab position.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. Abu-Jabir, sources say the U.S. secretary of state proposed that Jordan participate in the peace talks through a separate delegation. Is this pressure on the Palestinians?

[Abu-Jabir] This has not been proposed. Indeed, I heard about it only now, from you.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir: Can we say that the upcoming Arab cordon states meeting will come up with a unified Arab position toward the next round of peace negotiations?

[Abu-Jabir] Yes. This is what we hope for. We all want to resume the peace process, because peace is now a strategic goal for the participating countries. We do not want procrastination to continue. The peace process must not stay in a vicious circle. The entire exercise, of course, must be based on the known Arab and Jordanian principles: compliance with international resolutions, Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, and the need for the Palestinian people to regain their right to self-determination on their soil. The land must be returned in exchange for peace. I say return, because this is Arab, not Israeli land.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Thank you. You are always welcome on the Voice of the Arabs.

President Leaves for Damascus, Meets al-Asad

NC1303122893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] The Lebanese-Syrian summit meeting between President Ilyas al-Hirawi and President Hafiz al-Asad has begun at al-Sha'b Palace in Damascus. Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam is attending the meeting. Official sources in Damascus said that the discussions revolve around regional issues and the invitation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington.

President al-Hirawi left Beirut for Damascus by land this morning and arrived at the Lebanese-Syrian border at 1140. He was received by Syrian Vice President Khaddam. They proceeded to al-Sha'b Palace, where the summit began at 1230 and is continuing at this moment.

President Returns, Issues Statement

NC1403121693 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Statement by the Media Department of the General Directorate of the Presidency on 14 March—read by announcer]

[Text] The Lebanese-Syrian summit was concluded today, and his excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi returned to Beirut following two closed meetings with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and a series of meetings with senior Syrian officials.

Talks focused on the situation in the Arab region in light of renewed discussion of ways to resume the peace conference and the invitation by the conference sponsors to attend the ninth round in Washington.

The Lebanese and Syrian sides discussed the various developments in the Arab arena and agreed on the need to coordinate stands to reach practical results. The two sides emphasized the importance of bilateral relations, with particular emphasis on the vital issues that concern both Lebanon and Syria.

Deputy Premier Leaves for Visit to Syria

NC1503074393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Michel al-Murr, who met President Ilyas al-Hirawi when he returned from Damascus yesterday, left for the Syrian capital this morning.

In another development, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has denied reports about possible changes in the government.

Al-Rantisi on al-Hirawi-al-Asad Meeting

NC1303132093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Regarding the Lebanese-Syrian summit meeting between Presidents Ilyas al-Hirawi and Hafiz al-Asad, Palestinian deportees spokesman Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi said at a news conference at the deportees camp in Marj al-Zuhur that Presidents al-Hirawi and al-Asad have demonstrated an understanding of the deportees issue and realize the dire need to end deportations once and for all. He noted that the two presidents have too much dignity to back down on their positions, which call for supporting the deportees' cause in the face of Zionist arrogance. He said: We have great confidence that Syria and Lebanon will maintain their firm positions on the deportees issue.

Al-Rantisi noted that the Arab cordon states' foreign ministers will adopt a unified stand supporting the deportees issue at their meeting in Damascus on 28 March. He said that the cordon states will not agree to resume the peace talks and sit at the negotiating table before the deportees are returned on the basis of Security Council Resolution 799.

Commenting on U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's statement on measures to encourage the Palestinian negotiating delegation to go to the talks, al-Rantisi said that unless these measures secure a solution to the deportees issue, the Palestinian team will not go to the negotiations, particularly because the Palestinian people have lost hope in the negotiations as a result of Israeli destruction, killing, and devastation inside the Palestinian homeland. He said that the Palestinian people reject negotiations in part and parcel.

Al-Rantisi said we do not attach much importance to the Rabin-Clinton meeting, because Rabin violates Palestinian human rights and exercises terrorism against them, while Clinton supports Rabin in this.

Commenting on the mounting uprising in the occupied land, al-Rantisi said that the deportations caused a visible escalation in military operations, adding: I am quite confident that the Palestinian people no longer accept the existence of occupation. He added: The uprising is like the waves of the sea: They rise and fall, but will not cease until the occupied Palestinian territories are liberated. He said that Israel should obey international legitimacy and withdraw from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank and withdraw its settlers instead of arming them to kill Palestinian women, children, and elderly.

Responding to a question on the contacts between Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and other Palestinian organizations, al-Rantisi said that these contacts definitely indicate that Hamas is concerned about Palestinian national unity so that the people can cope with an abrupt Israeli withdrawal with awareness and self-confidence. [passage omitted]

Al-Rantisi Comments on Talks Participation

NC1203175793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] Spokesman for the Palestinian deportees Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi said at a press conference today that it is not possible for Arab states to participate in peace negotiations without the Palestinian delegation. The declared stands of these states are clear and obvious and they reject participation before the deportees are returned to their homes, he said.

In another development, five wolves attacked a Palestinian deportee as he was washing clothes on the bank of the river close to the camp at 0700 today. The deportee, however, jumped into the water until the wolves were gone.

Egypt's 'Attacks' on Islam Condemned

NC1303095193 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Station commentary: "Official Terrorism"]

[Text] The Egyptian regime can annihilate thousands of Egyptians and lock up tens of thousands with the excuse that it is protecting the general system. But it definitely will not be able to convince the masses that the authorities are confronting organized violence, which targets it in a planned and well-studied manner. When Egyptians look around them, they quickly realize there is nothing in their country inspiring stability: Not the economic situation, nor the incorrect role given Egypt to play in the affairs of the nation and the region, nor the freedoms, nor anything that could quench the thirst for revenge of the millions locked up in this huge jail cell. Yes, Egypt has been turned into a huge cell. In fact, all of Egypt has become part of the U.S.-Zionist-crusader cell. As a result of reconciliation with the enemy, Egypt reaped degradation, dishonor, poverty, and general and administrative corruption. Egypt was transformed from a country that protects its nation and shoulders its concerns to one that pressures its people in order to control them.

The Egyptian masses are not the only ones falling under the whip of the regime and its executioners. All the Arab and Palestinian masses are falling under this whip. Is Mubarak's regime not one of the cosponsors of the peace settlement? Is Mubarak not the one attempting to market the U.S. peace settlement in accordance with U.S.-Israeli conditions, while the people benefit nothing from it other than Mubarak's urgent need not to feel isolated as a result of Egypt's reconciliation with the enemy?

This is the reality that assails the regime in Egypt. The regime then in turn proceeds to assail Egypt's people, history, and dignity. The regime attacks Islam in Egypt because it knows that Islam rejects the regime's game and deviation. Regardless of how much Mubarak and his shaykhs talk about Islamic tolerance, this tolerance never affects those who extended one hand to the enemy and extended the other to their compatriot and brother in religion and killed him, or starved him, or rendered him homeless to live in graveyards.

There is a great crime being committed in Egypt in the name of the regime, stability, and security. A great crime is being committed under the slogan of preserving tourism and combating extremism and terrorism. The regime is transforming the mosques into arenas of destruction. Nevertheless, it continues to combat terrorism, and we do not know what terrorism could be worse than killing scores of innocent people as they pray.

If you want to kill them, then do so outside God's house of worship. Kill them away from the eyes of the people. Or do you choose to kill them when they are praising God, the moment they glorify God after a full day of fasting? Such acts of murder cannot be surpassed: Killing patient believers without their having committed any crime. Is there no crime or terrorism worse than this? The state's terrorism has exceeded every kind of terrorism; that is, if we assume there is terrorism in other situations. We know, however, that the regime is the one that lays the foundation for the existing state of violence. The police state system is the one that inaugurated the age of violence and terrorism; it is the one that substituted the language of dialogue and discussion with the language of bullets and murder. The regime is the one that closed the door before various opportunities to open the doors of prisons. The regime boasts that it is making progress and realizing victories.

But against whom is the regime doing this? Against the Zionists, against foreign aggression, or against the helpless people? Why is it that every time a hungry mouth in Egypt moves, the bugles of the regime sound claiming there is a conspiracy being hatched abroad? Why is it that every time someone screams demanding freedom and asking that the shackles on his wrists be unfastened, Mubarak screams back claiming that the Iranian and Sudanese support for terrorism in Egypt is to blame? Does he want to degrade the Islam of the Egyptians or their adherence to freedom? And why is it that every time confrontation between the people and the regime escalates, the regime's masters play the tune of foreign threats?

The regime sheds the blood of Muslims in mosques. It then attempts to divert attention to what it terms as dangers caused by the continuing threats of neighboring Sudan. Talk about outside dangers does not eliminate the internal problem at all—that is, if we accept the fact that there is an external danger. But where does the danger come from? From Sudan and Khartoum, or from Tel Aviv?

Al-Shar' Invites Arabs to Coordination Meeting

JN1203131193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has sent invitations to foreign ministers of the Arab parties concerned with the peace process to hold their next coordination meeting in Damascus between 28 and 29 March.

These invitations were preceded by contacts between Faruq al-Shar' and his colleagues Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir, and Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, all of whom welcomed the invitation and agreed to attend it as scheduled.

During their coordination meeting, the ministers are expected to explore the prospects of the peace process, its developments, and obstacles facing the resumption of the Washington peace talks, at the head of which is the issue of Palestinian deportees. The ministers will stress the importance of adopting a unified Arab stand toward all these issues. They will also respond to the invitation by the peace conference cosponsors, the United States and the Russian Federation, to resume the peace talks in Washington.

PLO's Qaddumi: Arabs May Take Part Without Palestinians

NC1303072393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has extended invitations to his Egyptian, Lebanese, Jordanian, and Palestinian counterparts to meet in Damascus on 28 and 29 March to coordinate their positions. SANA reported that the discussions will deal with all aspects and developments in the peace process in light of the Palestinian deportees issue.

Meanwhile, PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi has stressed that the Arab parties may take part in one or two sessions of the negotiations without the Palestinians, who insist on settling the Palestinian deportees issue before resuming the talks.

In another development, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has expressed hope that the Palestinians will withdraw from the peace talks for once and for all. It called on the Palestinian leadership to return to armed struggle to liberate the occupied territories and establish a liberated and independent Palestinian state.

Calls Damascus Visit 'Very Successful'

JN1203132893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, left Damascus this morning after a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic lasting several days.

On hand to bid him farewell were Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, senior Foreign Ministry officials, and head of the PLO office in Damascus.

In a statement to a SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY correspondent, Qaddumi said that the results of his visit to Damascus were very successful. He added: The common Arab stand and efforts by our brothers in Syria, which were rendered a success by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar's visit to Cairo, unified the Arab stand to confront all challenges and solve problems facing the peace process.

Qaddumi said: We leave Syria, our second homeland, with our hearts full of hope that this success will continue until we achieve the aspirations of our Arab nation in terms of liberating its occupied territories, returning the Palestinian people to their land, and regaining their legitimate rights.

Al-Shar' Said To Accept Golan Withdrawal in 'Stages'

JN1203190093 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has discussed with his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar' new Israeli proposals to end the state of war with Syria and conclude a peace agreement between the two countries.

According to informed diplomatic sources, the proposals deal with a phased withdrawal from the Golan that will be finalized at the end of seven years from the date a peace agreement with Syria is signed.

Israel had communicated the contents of this plan to Dr. Usamah al-Baz, President Mubarak's political adviser, during his recent visit to Tel Aviv. Israel also asked the Egyptian Government to arrange a secret meeting between the Syrian and Israeli foreign ministers in Cairo to discuss the details of this plan and the means to eliminate obstacles still hampering the peace process.

For his part, the Syrian foreign minister affirmed that his country insists on the need for total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan but that he does not object to this withdrawal taking place in stages determined by the Syrian and Israeli sides. He also affirmed that progress in the Syrian-Israeli talks should be accompanied by similar progress on the other Arab-Israeli fronts.

Arab diplomatic sources have affirmed to our radio that a secret Syrian-Israeli meeting was held in a European capital some two weeks ago and under joint French-U.S. supervision. However, no specific points of agreement were reached between the two sides.

Al-Shar' arrived in Cairo yesterday to prepare for Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's expected visit to Cairo, prior to President Mubarak's visit to Washington in April, to discuss all the current developments in the regional peace process.

Lebanese President Arrives, Meets With al-Asad

JN1303124893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirwai in the People's Palace at 1230 today. Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam attended the meeting.

The Lebanese president was earlier received upon his arrival at the Syrian-Lebanese border post by Khaddam, who accompanied him in an official motorcade to the People's Palace.

This was followed by a closed meeting, which began at 1300 today.

Bilateral Ties Discussed

JN1303191793 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Excerpts] President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi in the People's Palace at 1230 today. [passage omitted]

At 1900 today, the two presidents resumed their talks at the Presidential Palace, where they were joined by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Their discussions addressed bilateral ties, regional developments, the Middle East peace process, and the upcoming ninth round of the peace talks. [passage omitted]

Summit Called 'Very Important'

NC1403125193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Excerpts] President Ilyas al-Hirawi left Damascus for Lebanon this morning. He was accompanied to Judaydat Yabus [on the Syrian-Lebanese border] by Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, with whom he met before his departure at Tishrin Palace. The Damascus summit's (?third) round between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and al-Hirawi resumed at al-Muhajirin Palace this morning. Informed sources say this round was devoted to the various aspects of the Lebanese situation, particularly the completion of the steps to render the peace and accord process successful. [passage omitted]

Press sources cite a member of the Lebanese delegation in Damascus as saying that the Damascus summit has been successful and very important. He said President al-Hirawi is very satisfied with the outcome. These sources said the main goal of the summit was to discuss the vistas of the stage that will follow the political solutions being prepared for the region by the Americans, not the solutions themselves. This is particularly true because Lebanon needs high-level consultations about what is needed after the proposed peace and the bills that might be imposed on Lebanon to consolidate the peace process and their effect on Lebanese and Syrian interests.

U.S. Urged To Adhere to 'Full Partner' Role

JN1503072693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 15 Mar 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting on the peace process and the full-partner concept, AL-BA'TH says: Obviously, the visit of Yitzhaq Rabin, head of the enemy government, to the United States, which precedes the date set for the resumption of the peace talks, has several purposes. Mainly, the visit is an attempt to circumvent the new full-partner role emphasized by the Clinton administration.

AL-BA'TH adds that a full partner, in accordance with international criteria and based on the unique character of the peace process in this region, means primarily playing the role of an honest broker who would not side with this or that party, but only sides with reason, justice, and right, based, first and foremost, on adherence to international legitimacy and UN resolutions on the Arab-Zionist conflict.

If this concept takes its full dimensions and materializes on the ground, the paper adds, it will embarrass Israel and possibly put pressure on it. In order to avoid reaching this point, Rabin rushed to the United States to try to persuade the U.S. Administration to abandon its new role.

AL-BA'TH notes the many obstacles to the resumption of the peace process, which must be removed. Among these obstacles is the question of the deportees, which requires a radical solution. Also, the occupation authorities should abandon their daily terrorist practices against our kinfolk in the occupied territories.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Until the Arab parties announce their stand toward the invitations they have received after the meeting of the cordon states' foreign ministers, the U.S. Administration is asked to keep its pledge toward the peace process and play the role of an honest full partner, because advancing this process depends on closing the doors to the maneuvers and deception of the Rabin government.

Afghanistan

Hekmatyar Summons Jihadi Groups to Jalalabad Meeting

BK1503025493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar, the Afghan prime minister-designate, has convened a meeting of jihadi groups in the Afghan city of Jalalabad for tomorrow to take a decision on the formation of the cabinet. A Hezb-e Eslami source told ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN in Peshawar yesterday that all Afghan leaders have been requested to attend the meeting so that the cabinet is announced as early as possible.

Hekmatyar To Complete Cabinet Formation Within 2 Weeks

BK1203155593 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] Golboddin Hekmatyar, the prime minister-designate of Afghanistan, has said that the Afghan people are happy with the Afghan accord because they feel it is a reasonable solution of the Afghanistan problem. He said that Afghan leaders will spare no efforts in fully adhering to the accord. Talking to newsmen on board the prime minister's special plane en route to Lahore from Saudi Arabia, he said that the fact that elections for the legislative assembly, which will enact laws for the country, will be held within six to eight months is especially a matter of joy for him. After this stage, elections will be held to form the government as per constitutional requirements. He said that the elections will be held on one-man-one-vote basis.

In reply to a question, he said that he is happy with the modality for the implementation of the accord, adding that he understands that it will prove effective. He said that the entire Afghan community supports this accord. The Afghan people want peace and tranquillity in their homeland and a total implementation of the accord. In reply to a question, Hekmatyar said that he will complete formation of his cabinet within the prescribed time of two weeks.

Yunus Khales Rejects Iran Peacekeeping Troops Offer

BK1503065693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1734 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Islamabad, March 14 (AFP)—Iran has offered to send a peacekeeping force to Afghanistan to monitor the implementation of a peace plan, official sources here said, despite protests from a mojahedin group that rejected the accord.

The offer was made by Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani following a one-day visit to Tehran by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Afghan signatories to the accord, the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) and state-run television said.

Sharif, who returned from the Iranian capital on Sunday, was one of the main sponsors of the the Afghan peace plan concluded in Islamabad on March 7. Saudi Arabia and Iran were also strong backers of the talks.

Rafsanjani said Iran was ready to send peacekeeping forces to Afghanistan and added that he hoped other Islamic countries would also contribute troops for the purpose, APP said.

The accord calls for the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to devise a strong mechanism to monitor the cessation of intra- Afghan hostilities.

But Yunus Khales, leader of a splinter group of the Hezb-e Eslami faction, said he was opposed the Iranian offer. Khales boycotted the peace talks and has not given his endorsement to the accord.

In a prepared statement, a spokesman for Khales said the "presence of foreign troops on Afghan soil will be confronted and vehemently opposed."

The dissident leader said the Afghan nation would fight Iranian troops in the same way it fought against armed forces of the former Soviet Union who invaded the country in 1979 and later installed the pro-Moscow government of former president Najibollah.

He also blamed Tehran for interfering in Afghan affairs by exploiting differences between minority Shiite and majority Sunni Moslems. Khales had opposed the alleged "over representation" of the pro-Iranian Shiite faction in the peace talks.

Despite Khales' opposition to the peace talks and Iranian peacekeeping offer, the Tehran meeting was seen as an important step in emphasizing adherence to all articles of the peace accord.

"Any minor delay in implementation of the agreement would be detrimental to both the Afghan nation and reconstruction of the country," APP quoted Iranian sources as saying.

Observers here added that the brief trip to Iran by Sharif and the Afghan signatories was to maintain a diplomatic balance after a similar visit to Saudi Arabia.

Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani also participated in the meeting after which his prime minister-designate, Golboddin Hekmatyar, said he hoped to soon form a cabinet based on consensus, APP said.

Hekmatyar, leader of the Hezb-e Eslami faction most recently at odds with Rabbani's government, said all mojahedin groups had announced their commitment to maintain the accord and undertake the reconstruction of their country.

Confirming that he would abide by the agreement, Hekmatyar thanked Iran for playing a key role in the Afghan jihad, or holy war, against the communist government.

Shiite Rebel Leader on Prospects for Lasting Peace

BK1503122093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1159 GMT 15 Mar 93

[By Terence White]

[Text] KABUL,March 15 (AFP)—The leader of the Afghan Shiite rebel faction which recently suffered a military defeat at the hands of Defence Ministry forces said Monday he held reservations about a permanent ceasefire in Kabul.

Ayatollah Abdol Ali Mazari, leader of the Hezb-e Wahdat faction, said there were too many unresolved differences between Wahdat and defence minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud.

"We are happy that the ceasefire agreement was signed but some points need to be clarified. If not, these points will be a hot-bed of trouble in the future," said Mazari.

Speaking from his new headquarters in Wahdat's stronghold in south Kabul, Mazari outlined five points of potential strife.

These were, the role of Wahdat ally, the former pro-communist militia strongman General Abdul Rashid Dostam (whose powerful political movement was not signatory to the Islamabad accord); the rights of women (Wahdat, unlike some parties, favours women's voting rights); the specifics of electing a parliament; a re-drawing of provincial boundaries for more equitable representation; and the distribution of power in the new cabinet.

Mazari said he understood the new cabinet would be chosen by three-way consultation between prime minister-designate Golboddin Hekmatyar (leader of the Pushtun Hezb-e Eslami faction), president Borhanoddin Rabbani, (former leader of the predominantly Tajik Jamiat-e Eslami faction), and the seven other mojahedin faction leaders.

The Wahdat leader expressed confidence that the Shiites would get their fair share of power through negotiation between all the leaders. But he said there was at least one outstanding point concerning the distribution of power on which permanent peace might falter.

Mazari said he believed, contrary to senior Jamiat officials, that no mojahedin faction could be allocated more than one of the six key cabinet posts in the new Afghan government.

"In compliance with the Islamabad agreement, no party has the right to hold two important posts," Mazari declared.

The six posts stipulated are those of president, prime minister, and the four ministries—defence, interior, foreign affairs and national security.

As both president Rabbani and defence minister Mas'ud belong to Jamiat, Mazari said Mas'ud should step down if Rabbani wanted to retain the presidency.

"Since Jamiat has got the presidency, then they have to give up the ministry of defence," Mazari said.

In reply to the argument that Rabbani announced his resignation as Jamiat leader during his inauguration as president, Mazari countered: "Actually, in the Islamabad discussions, Borhanoddin Rabbani was recognised not as the president but as the leader of Jamiat-e Eslami."

Another potential problem, he said, was the role of the new defence ministry council which was announced in Islamabad. Jamiat believes it will not come under the control of the defence ministry but will be an auxiliary body with specially defined tasks, such as supervising the collection of heavy weapons which threaten the capital. However Mazari contended the defence minister would be subordinate to the new council.

"The council is going to rule over the defence ministry in place of the defence minister," he said.

Mazari also denied claims by Mas'ud that Wahdat had suffered 80 percent losses to its military capability in the recent fighting. "That's a lie," he said.

The Wahdat leader claimed he had 10,000 fighters in Kabul, of whom only 200 were killed or taken prisoner. He added that a further 600 non-combatants were taken prisoner by the government.

Militia Leader Optimistic on Prospects for Peace

LD1403222293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani, the leader of Afghanistan's Mahaz- e Meli-ye Eslami [National Islamic Front], said the establishment of security in Kabul is only possible through the honesty of the Afghan militia groups in respecting the agreements reached in Islamabad, as well as the setting up of an independent national army in the country.

Speaking to IRNA on Sunday, Gaylani was optimistic about the recent agreements and understandings. He said, however, that there are still many weak points in the agreement.

The leaders of the various Afghan military groups have reached a general agreement for the establishment of a cease-fire in Kabul.

Bangladesh

North Korean Vice President's Dhaka Visit Postponed

BK1303074993 Hong Kong AFP in English 0501 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] DHAKA, March 13 (AFP)—A visit by North Korean Vice President Yi Chong-ok to Bangladesh has been postponed following Pyongyang's decision to pull out of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Officials here Saturday would not specify why the visit was postponed, saying only the postponement followed certain developments in North Korea.

Li was to have arrived here Sunday to start a four-day visit as special envoy of President Kim Il-song as part of a South Asian tour, including Nepal, India, and Pakistan, they said.

India

Further Reportage on Bombay Bomb Blasts

Officials, Parties React

BK1203163493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] The city of Bombay was rocked by powerful bomb explosions at various places in south central and western suburbs. A total of 12 explosions have been reported, including the heaviest one at the Bombay Stock Exchange Building in south Bombay. According to the city police, 174 persons died and over 940 injured in the explosions. The city police commissioner, Mr. Ajit Singh Sanwar, says it looks like the work of such organizations who want to undermine the peace and tranquillity of the city. The explosions seem to create panic and fear among the citizens.

Addressing a news conference in Bombay, the chief minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, described the explosions as a concerted attempt to destabilize the economy of the country by targeting the commercial capital of India. He said that most of the explosions were from bombs placed in cars. Mr. Pawar said that such powerful explosions were never witnessed in the city. The chief minister said that the center has been requested to send some bomb experts by tomorrow to ascertain the nature of bombs used and their source and make. He said the situation of the city will not be disturbed as a result of the blasts. The chief minister discussed the situation with the police authorities and directed them to nab mischiefmongers. The police sent a red alert throughout the city and a heavy bandobust [preparedness] has been arranged at various places.

Making a statement in the Lok Sabha, the minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, said that the blasts occurred at several crowded places, including Bombay Stock Exchange Building. The bombs were placed in cars and other vehicles parked in crowded areas. Mr. Pilot said the Maharashtra chief minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, had informed him that the situation is under control and a crisis management group is in operation to provide relief to the victims. He said that a high-level central team, comprising experts from RAW [Research and Analysis Wing], IB [Intelligence Bureau], and NSG [National Security Guard] is being rushed to the city to assist the state government. The team also includes specialists in explosives. Mr. Pilot said that Mr. Pawar had asked for paramilitary forces to deal with the situation. He said the center will provide all assistance to the state government and leave no stone unturned to find out those responsible for the blasts and bring them to book.

The Lok Sabha appealed to the citizens of Bombay to maintain peace and tranquillity at this hour of crisis and expressed its condolences to the bereaved families.

The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, told the Rajya Sabha earlier that he suspects an international conspiracy behind the blasts and the center will request the Maharashtra government to ensure that rumors are not spread by vested interests.

The Rajya Sabha expressed its deep sympathy to the families of the victims and appealed to the Bombay citizens to maintain peace. Mr. Ram Naik, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], told the Lok Sabha that his party is withdrawing all agitations and dharnas [blockades] announced by it in the city in view of the prevailing situation. He said the death toll according to his information is much higher and the government should look into the question of any foreign hands behind the incidents. The leader of the opposition, Mr. L.K. Advani, said the government should ensure that the intelligence network is put on full alert to prevent any such incidents in other metropolitan cities as well. Mr. Rajesh Pilot informed the house that all state governments have been alerted and precautionary measures are being taken in sensitive areas.

The prime minister has canceled his visit to Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh tomorrow in view of the Bombay incidents. Mr. Narasimha Rao has also directed the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, and the minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, to visit Bombay immediately. He also spoke to the Maharashtra chief minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, on telephone.

A control room has been set up in the union Home Ministry in the capital to monitor the Bombay situation.

The president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, has expressed deep concern at the large number of deaths in the bomb blasts in Bombay today. Expressing his shock and grief, the prime minister termed the bomb blast as a mischievous, inhuman, and criminal act. Mr. Narasimha Rao said the entire nation joins him in condemning the incidents. In a message, the prime minister assured the people that the government will take all necessary steps to apprehend the perpetrators of the crime. He also appealed to the people to remain calm and not to be misled by rumors. Mr. Rao conveyed his deep sympathy to the victims of the bomb blasts.

The Congress-I has condemned the blasts in Bombay city this afternoon. The party spokesman, Mr. Chandulal Chandrakar, said in New Delhi today that the incidents are a matter of concern to all and it has to be inquired into to book the culprits.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] has expressed its outrage of the bomb explosions in Bombay saying that the blasts seem to be part of a conspircy to disturb normalcy there. The party called for vigorous efforts to track down the culprits and appealed to the people of Bombay to resist any provocations.

Senior leaders of Janata Dal, SJP [Samajwadi Janata Party], and Janata Party have appealed to the people, particularly of Bombay, to act with restraint and not to let divisive forces to succeed in their nefarious designs. In a joint statement they said the dastardly explosions have caused all-round anxiety. The signatories to the statement include, Mr. V.P. Singh, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, Mr. Biju Patnaik, Mr. Ramakrishna Hegde, Mr. Mir Qasim, and Dr. Subramaniam Swamy.

Reserve Police Sent

BK1303035993 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, arrived in Bombay last night and visited some of the bomb blast-affected areas. He held discussions with the Maharashtra chief minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, and other high-level state officials and took stock of the situation. The home minister was accompanied by Union Ministers Mr. Rajesh Pilot, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, Mr. Mukul Vasnik, and some Maharashtra MP's. Eleven companies of the CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] and a team of forensic experts have also rushed to Bombay. A control room has been set up in the Union Home Ministry to monitor the situation.

Mr. Sharad Pawar has announced compensation of 200,000 rupees each to the next of kin of those killed in the explosions. He said permanently disabled persons will be getting 25,000 rupees each, while the partially injured 10,000 rupees. The chief minister said the injured will be treated free of charge in government and municipal hospitals. The state administration has postponed higher secondary and school certification examinations in greater Bombay.

The death toll in the meantime has risen to 200 with more persons succumbing to injuries. Over 900 injured persons are being treated at various public and private hospitals in the city.

The Bombay Police in a major combing operation last night have recovered seven AK-47 rifles, 700 live cartridges, and some hand grenades from an abandoned car at Vorli in Central Bombay.

Commentary Analyzes 'Foreign Hand'

BK1303041093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Commentary by Vasudev Gajenkar]

[Text] The country's commercial capital Bombay, recovering from the impact of two bouts of communal violence, was rocked by a series of bomb explosions yesterday sending shock waves among the business community. What appeared to be a normal humid Friday turned into a nightmare as a first bomb went off in the basement of the Bombay Stock Exchange building at 1320. This was followed by explosions in the Air India building, three hotels, a cinema hall, Zaveri Bazaar and (Kartak) Bazaar, all within a space of 155 minutes. Over 200 lives were lost and over 1,000 were injured, many of them seriously. Hospitals echoed with the cries of hundreds of victims and heart-rending scenes were witnessed as families of the victims thronged the doorways in search of near and dear ones.

It will take some time before the real culprits behind the blasts are identified. But on the face of it, it becomes clear that a well-knit organization with great financial resources was involved. The blasts were meticulously planned and commercial establishments appear to have been the main targets. In the Stock Exchange and Air India buildings, huge quantities of sophisticated explosives were packed in parked cars, while in the three five-star hotels the bombs have been carried in with the luggage. As the chief minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, and the union home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, have hinted, a foreign hand bent upon destabilizing the country's economy appears to have taken the help of antinational elements to trigger off the blasts. The explosions certainly do not have any communal overtones and experts even rule out the involvement of any local outfit because none of them have access to such bombmaking techniques. The industrial and commercial prominence of the city appears to have prompted the foreign force to choose Bombay and the aim was to spread panic in the nation's economic nerve center.

The union home minister, Mr. Chavan, and the minister of state for home affairs, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, along with a large team of experts are already in the city to assess the situation. While the truth behind the blasts will take time-consuming investigations to emerge, the need of the hour is to maintain calm and face the challenge of the destabilizing forces unitedly.

Death Toll Rises

BK1303073593 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0630 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] The prime minister is going to Bombay for an on-the-spot study of the situation in the wake of bomb blasts in the metropolis yesterday. Mr. Narasimha Rao will visit the affected areas and will hold discussions with the Maharashtra chief minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, on the steps to tighten the law and order machinery. Terming the blasts as a criminal and an inhumane act, Mr. Narasimha Rao assured the people that the government will take all necessary steps to apprehend the perpetrators of the crime. He has appealed to the people to remain calm and not to be misled by rumors.

Explosives experts have been (?scanning) the remains of the devastated buildings and vehicles in the 13 blasts that rocked Bombay, but no clues have been found to either the nature of the explosives used or the kingpins behind the blasts. No one has claimed any responsibility so far for the blasts in crowded multistory buildings and five-star hotels.

The overall situation in Bombay now is said to be near normal. Suburban train services and bus services are running. The security forces are keeping a strict watch on the situation. Eleven companies of the Central Reserve Police and one company of the Rapid Action Force has also been deployed to strengthen security arrangements.

Meanwhile, the death toll in the bomb explosions has risen to 225 with 25 more persons succumbing to injuries. Hundred of injured persons are being treated in city hospitals. As already reported, the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, and the minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, are now in Bombay coordinating the relief and law and oder arrangements. A high-level central team comprising experts from the RAW [Research and Analyses Wing], IB [Intelligence Bureau], and NSG [National Security Guard] have rushed to the city to assist the Maharashtra government. The Center has also alerted all state governments in the wake of the Bombay explosions and asked them to take precautionary measures in sensitive areas. A special cell has been formed in the Home Ministry to maintain a close watch on the law and order situation.

Bombay Situation Normalizes

BK1303091893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0840 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] The prime minister is now on his way to Bombay for an on-the-spot study of the situation in the wake of the bomb blasts in the metropolis. Mr. Narasimha Rao will visit the affected areas and will have discussions with the Maharashtra chief minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, on steps to tighten the security arrangements.

The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, who airdashed to Bombay last night, held another round of discussions with Mr. Pawar this morning. The minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, also attended the meeting. They reviewed the steps taken by the authorities immediately after the explosions rocked several multistory buildings and five-star hotels. Mr. Chavan assured the Maharashtra government of central assistance in the investigations into explosions. A high-level central team is closely coordinating the probe with the state police. Expressing concern over the blast, the home minister said this criminal act is aimed at putting the clock back as the situation in Bombay is returning to normal. He asked Mr. Sharad Pawar to publish a list of people injured in the bomb blasts.

Explosives experts have been scouring the remains of the devastated buildings and vehicles, but no clues have been found to either the nature of the explosives used or the kingpins behind the blasts. No one has claimed responsibility for the blasts so far. Mr. Chavan, along with other union ministers now in Bombay, visited the stock exchange and other buildings damaged in the blasts. They also visited the hospitals where the injured are receiving treatment.

Meanwhile, the death toll in the explosions has gone up to 225 with more people succumbing to their injuries. The overall situation in Bombay now is said to be near normal. Suburban train services and bus services are running. The security forces are, however, keeping a strict watch. Eleven companies of the Central Reserve Police Force and one company of the Rapid Action Force have been deployed to strengthen the security arrangements.

The Gujarat chief minister, Mr. Chimanbhai Patel, said the blasts were the handiwork of antinational elements bent upon disturbing the prevailing peace and harmony. The Karnataka chief minister, Mr. Veerappa Moily, held a meeting with top police officials in Bangalore and reviewed the law and order situation in the backdrop of the Bombay blasts. He told our Bangalore correspondent that all steps to avert any sabotage in Karnataka have been taken. In a message to the Maharashtra chief minister, Mr. Moily expressed deep concern over the developments in Bombay.

The Kerala chief minister, Mr. K. Karunakaran, has expressed anguish at the Bombay incident. He conveyed his grief to the relatives of those killed in the bomb blasts. The Andhra Pradesh assembly today expressed its shock and anguish over the death and destruction caused by the bomb blasts in Bombay. Soon after the question hour, the speaker, Mr. D. Sripad Rao, read out the resolution which condemned the blasts as mischievous and inhumane. The house also observed two-minute silence to express its deep sympathies with those who lost their kith and kin in the incident. The Bihar chief minister, Mr. Lalu Prasad Yadav, has offered all help to the Maharashtra government to tackle the situation in the wake of the Bombay blasts. Talking to newsmen in Patna, he said the dastardly terrorist act deserved condemnation in the strongest terms.

The Janata Dal leader, Mr. George Fernandes, has alleged that the Bombay bomb blasts are the outcome of the criminalization of politics in Maharashtra. He was addressing a news conference in Kanpur today.

President Premadasa of Sri Lanka has condemned the acts of violence in Bombay. In a message to the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, and the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, he said he is greatly distressed at the tragic incident.

The British prime minister, Mr. John Major, has sent a message to the prime minister, expressing his shock at the happenings in Bombay.

Rao Visits Blast Sites

BK1303125893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] The prime minister, who is now in Bombay, visited the areas affected by yesterday's bomb blasts which claimed at least 225 lives. Mr. Narasimha Rao visited the Bombay stock exchange and the Air India building and surveyed the damage caused by the blasts. Later, Mr. Rao visited the hospitals where the victims have been admitted and spoke to the patients. The union minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, apprised the prime minister of the situation and gave details of yesterday's tragic incident.

The union home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, who air-dashed to Bombay last night, held another round of discussions with the chief minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, this morning. Mr. Chavan assured the chief minister of all possible assistance from the center to crack down on the culprits responsible for the blasts.

Army has been deployed in various parts of Bombay in the wake of yesterday's incident. Eleven companies of the CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] and one of Rapid Action Force have been pressed into service. Various government agencies are continuing their efforts to find out those responsible for the blasts.

In their messages broadcast by the Bombay station of All India Radio today, the governor, Dr. Alexander, and Union Home Minister Mr. S.B. Chavan have appealed to the people to maintain peace and harmony. Our Bombay correspondent reports a large number of youth and several voluntary organizations are coming forward to donate blood for the treatment of the injured.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] says elements hostile to India are behind yesterday's bomb blasts in Bombay. The party president, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, has said that the government should immediately identify these forces and eliminate them for good. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, Dr. Joshi said the situation calls for unity among the people to fight and overcome the fundamentalist forces.

Several Suspects Detained

BK1303131293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1307 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Bombay, March 13 (AFP)—Several suspects have been detained in connection with Friday's bombings here which killed nearly 300 people, but there have been no formal arrests, Bombay police chief Amarjeet Singh Samra said Saturday.

"We have detained several people and we are working on firm leads which could lead us to the perpetrators," the police commissioner told AFP. He said no formal arrests had been made although several suspects were in detention for "sustained interrogation."

Samra was speaking after the UNITED NEWS OF INDIA [UNI] reported that a Kashmiri Muslim militant had been arrested in connection with the 11 attacks on the city's commercial centres including the Bombay Stock Exchange.

UNI said police were searching for five of his Kashmiri Muslim associates and a person of "Iranian origin."

The Central Bureau of Investigation has also been called in to probe the attacks, Samra said, adding that the federal team included officers who investigated the assassination of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi. A woman with a bomb strapped to her body killed Gandhi in May 1991. More than 20 guerrillas belonging to Sri Lanka's Tamil separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam have been arrested in connection with his murder.

Samra said car bombs had never been used previously in India, and pointed out that such terrorist weapons had been used frequently in Sri Lanka. Police believe that at least four of the blasts were caused by cars packed with explosives, including those at the stock exchange and towering Air India headquarters.

Police Chief Suspects LTTE

BK1303144493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1430 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Bombay, March 15 (AFP)—Bombay police chief Amarjit Singh Samra on Saturday blamed Sri Lanka's separatist Tamil guerrillas for Friday's serial bombings that left almost 300 people dead.

"The first suspicion naturally goes on the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam). They have the technology and they have proved it," Samra said in a news conference. He said explosives used in the 11 incidents of bombings were "never seen in India, neither used by terrorists here."

Samra said among the many suspects detained in connection with the bombings was a man who had been arrested March 5 for possessing a forged Sri Lankan passport. He refused to disclose his identity or nationality, but said: "I don't think he is a Tamil."

The LTTE is battling in Sri Lanka's north and northeast for a separate homeland for the region's Tamil-speaking population.

Rao Comments on Motive

BK1303145493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] The prime minister has said that the explosions in Bombay seem to be an obvious attempt to disturb the economic progress of the country represented by Bombay. Talking to newsmen after visiting some of the sites of the explosions, Mr. Rao said that the first task before the government is to probe the nexus between the hand and the brain of the entire happenings. Mr. Rao said the explosions were sheer acts of inhumanity.

Mr. Chavan told newsmen that from today the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] is also involved in the investigation exercise. He reiterated his earlier statement that the explosions were a part of an international conspiracy. The Maharashtra chief minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, said the state government has announced 10 lakh rupees as a reward for any person who supplies authentic information about the individuals or organizations responsible for the blasts. The chief minister has appealed to the people, particularly the youth, to come forward and donate blood to the victims of the blasts.

More Remarks by Rao, Others

BK1303171093 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Even as Bombay limps back to normalcy, official reports from the city say the death toll now stands at 210. Agencies however, quoting hospital sources, say it has crossed the 300 mark with more people succumbing to their injuries. A large number of people are lying critically wounded. The prime minister today visited the injured in the hospitals, besides visiting the blast-affected areas. A report from our Bombay bureau:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Prime Minister Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao arrived in Bombay this afternoon to take stock of the situation arising out of yesterday's series of bomb blasts. Mr. Rao visited Air India building, Bombay stock exchange, and St. George Hospital. Later, addressing a crowded press conference at INS Gunjali this evening, Mr. Rao said that his government was determined to go to the root of the problem. Calling it an attempt to destabilize the economy, Mr. Rao said the immediate task of the government is to restore the morale of nation. He told journalists that the Bombay stock exchange authorities have informed him that they would start functioning from Monday.

[Rao] Evidently, it is not just lobbing of something from here, throwing of something there. It is very well planned as one can easily see and he does not need a detective to say this. But, the connection, the nexus between the hand and the brain, is to be found out. Unraveling that nexus is going to be the main task. Of course, the hand has to be found out first and then the brain. In this investigation again, I would like to assure the state government that in whatever manner the state wants the central government to assist, we are ready to do so. At the moment, we do not know how far the trail will lead us. It could lead us to places within the country, it could lead us outside the country and whatever and wherever it leads us, we are prepared, ready, and determined to follow it and find out the truth. I have seen the damage, the incalculable, unimaginable damage which was caused as a result of these explosions. Lot of speculation is taking place, but I think the government's first priority is, as it should be, to look after those who have been injured. I visited one hospital. That part of it is being taken care of efficiently. I met the doctors, I saw the patients, and I am sure whatever human lives could be saved, will be saved and should be saved. This is to be taken as a warning. What is really being attacked is the economic activity in India, the economy of India, and this also has been brought to my notice, as the obvious inference that is being drawn from the choice of spots, from the choice of the kind of explosives, and the way panic is sought to be created in business circles, both here and abroad.

[Corespondent] Meanwhile, the forensic experts have picked up clues from the various sites of blasts. According to agency reports, high explosive materials could be the RDX, Syntex, or dynamite which can trigger off a series of blasts by a time device.

[Maharashtra Chief Minister Sharad Pawar] Bombs which were used for these explosions, that was altogether different type of bomb. Looks like very very powerful bomb. There are three teams which came from Government of India. One from IB [Intelligence Bureau] specializing in this particular type of bombs; secondly from RAW [Research and Analysis Wing], and thirdly from NSG [National Security Guard], and fourthly from National Forensic Laboratory; plus we have also taken assistance from ordnance factories. There is some expertise in ordnance factories of the Ministry of Defense. So, one small group also from these ordnance factories is here and they are also going in details.

[Correspondent] Earlier, Mr. S.B. Chavan, union home minister, also spoke to our team.

[Chavan] Unless I (?want) to make a statement in the Parliament, I cannot say anything.

[Correspondent] Union ministers—Rajesh Pilot, Ghulam Nabi Azad, A.K. Anthony, the chief minister of the state, Mr. Sharad Pawar, and others were also present. [end recording]

Life in the city is slowly returning to normal with suburban trains and buses operating regular services. Bombay police said there was no fresh incident in any part of the city. Tight security arrangements continued with the forces on high alert. The CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] and the Rapid Action Force have been deployed. Experts and intelligence officials, in the meanwhile, sifted through the debris to find out how the blasts were carried out. All major hospitals are packed with the injured and some hospitals are facing shortage of facilities and blood.

Several Congress-I leaders have called for unitedly strengthening the hands of the Maharashtra and the central government to meet the current crisis following a series of bomb blasts in Bombay. In a statement issued in New Delhi, they said this is not the time for any political divide and all of us should face the challenge unitedly. The statement was signed by Mr. K.N. Singh, Mrs. Sheila Dikshit, Mr. B.P. Maurya, and Mr. Natwar Singh.

In an interview to the Hindi news agency, PTI-BHASHA, a prominent Congress-I leader, Mr. B.P Maurya, has said that in view of the grave incidents in Bombay, the demand for one man, one post has lost its relevance. Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao is the prime minister and the president of the Congress and he knows the interests of the party and the country best.

Army Controls Key Installations

BK1403031693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] The situation in Bombay remained normal overnight with no untoward incident reported from anywhere. Offices around the Bombay Stock Exchange, Air India Building, and Regional Passport Office in central Bombay remained closed as the areas were cordoned off by the police for investigation. Security in vital installations have been beefed up. Rail heads, telecommunication installations, water reservoirs, airports, and other places have been handed over to paramilitary units. Fifteen senior secretaries have been posted under the supervision of the chief secretary to monitor the situation round-the-clock.

According to the city police commissioner a team of Army explosive experts and bomb disposal squads are examining the remains for clues on the perpetrators. He said no group has claimed responsibility for the blasts so far.

The state Home Ministry sources said the death toll in the Friday's bomb blasts has risen to 229. Eight hundred and fifty-nine people are still undergoing treatment in government, civil and private hopsitals. Blood donation camps are being organized in all hospitals as they are facing a shortage.

Talking to newspersons yesterday after visiting some of the explosion sites, the prime minister said that the blasts seems to be an obvious attempt to disturb economic progress of the country represented by the metropolis. He said the first task before the government is to probe the nexus between the hand and the brain of the entire happening.

The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, reiterated that the explosions were part of an international conspiracy. The state government has announced a reward of 10 lakh rupees for any authentic information about the individuals or organizations responsible for the blasts.

Condeming the incidents of the bomb blasts, Punjab Chief Minister Mr. Beant Singh expressed concern at the loss of innocent lives and assured all assistance to the state government.

Two New Bombs Found

BK1403162693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 14 GMT 93

[Text] In Bombay, explosive experts have begun the probe into the bomb blasts which rocked the city on Friday. The probe was being headed by a team of experts from RAW [Research and Analysis Wing] and the Intelligence Bureau. Our Bombay correspondent reports that some proofs from the blast site have been dispatched to the forensic laboratories for testing. He adds that paramilitary units have been stationed at specific points to maintain law and order.

The defense spokesman said that the army is standing by and not yet deployed. Round-the-clock medical attention is being provided to the victims in the various city hospitals. The death toll has gone up to 235. About 400 out of more than 800 injured persons are said to be in critical condition. A number of voluntary organizations are coming forward to organize blood donation camps to provide blood to the victims.

Meanwhile, police today recovered two live bombs from a scooter parked in the Dadar area in Central Bombay. The bombs were later defused by the bomb disposal squad. Police said both the bombs were of high explosive nature and will have caused heavy damage or detonation.

The Maharashtra chief minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, has expressed his determination to nab the disruptive forces behind Friday's bomb blasts in Bombay. He said if required the assistance of the Interpol and other foreign agencies will be sought in the investigation. Mr. Pawar said courage and patience will help the administration to bring to book the real culprits. He appreciated the work of the voluntary organizations in extending help to the blast victims.

The union minister, Mr. Abrar Ahmed, today visited some of the blast sites including the worst-affected Bombay Stock Exchange building in South Bombay. He also went to the hospital and talked to some of the injured persons undergoing treatment.

The leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha, Mr. L.K. Advani, also visited the affected areas. Talking to newsmen, he said he suspects that Pakistan is behind the blasts. He described the blasts as ghastly and inhuman, and evidently the hand work of professionals.

Find Termed Breakthrough

BK1403163493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1549 GMT 14 Mar 93

[By M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[Text] Bombay, March 14 (AFP)—Police on Sunday [14 March] claimed a breakthrough in investigations here into Friday's serial bombings that left almost 300 people dead and 1,240 people injured in India's deadliest terrorist strike. Detectives seized a huge cache of high explosives from a scooter's luggage compartment in central Dadar district saying the material was wired to the two-wheeler and would have exploded if someone had switched on its ignition.

The seizure of eight kilograms (17.6 pounds) of "Semtex" plastique and highly-reactive RDX explosives took bomb experts closer towards the bombs that were used Friday, but police are yet to unravel the plot behind the strikes.

"It will help us to find out where the explosives originated. This is a major breakthrough (in our investigations). It is a very good lead," said Bombay police chief Amarjit Singh Samra.

Samra on Saturday said the explosives used in the bombs had never been used in India and added that his suspicions on Sri Lanka's Tamil guerrillas were natural because of their familiarity with Semtex and RDX.

Police evacuated a large number of homes and shops from Dadar as army bomb experts in armoured suits dismantled the explosives from the blue-colored scooter parked opposite a physician's clinic near Dadar's railway station. Samra said the police were alerted on Sunday by the physician about the unclaimed brand-new scooter which had been parked there since Friday.

The bombers exploded powerful devices in the Bombay Stock Exchange, the towering Air India building, three hotels, a cinema, commercial centres and in a packed bus which alone killed 80 people.

In seven of the 11 incidents, cars packed with explosives were used, but experts had little success in establishing whether timers or radio signals were used to detonate them.

The experts from the army and two other intelligence organisations were also unsure of the type of explosives used in the devices until Sunday's discovery of the scooter-bomb, they said.

"Bombay-ites should remain extra vigilant if they have to ward off further terrorist attacks," said Samra in a news conference as experts added that they were not ruling out other booby-trap bombs in the devastated city.

Speaking on a police hunt for the elusive bombers, Samra said an Indian and a man with a Turkish passport have been picked up on charges of forgery and theft after they were caught changing 120,000 dollars into Indian rupees.

"It is not clear if they are linked to Friday's bombing but the amount of dollars changed is itself a cause of suspicion."

"They are being questioned to know if they had any links (in the attacks)," he said.

Some other suspects were also being interrogated, he said but gave no details of the police hunt. Police arrested a man with a forged Sri Lankan passport in Saturday's crackdown but Samra refused to comment on the incident.

Speaking of the bombing of the hotels, Samra said police have now established that the attackers booked suites on Thursday in the three complexes for three days after making initial deposits in rupees. Employees of the hotels who "interacted" with the suspects were being questioned, he said as other officers added that police were apparently looking for nine men in connection with the hotel bombings.

"Police would soon release identity-kit sketches," said one, adding that they had checked into Sea Rock and the two Centaur hotels after giving false Bombay addresses.

Meanwhile, Sharad Pawar, chief minister of Maharashtra, of which Bombay is the capital, said the wrecked Bombay Stock Exchange would resume operations on Monday or Tuesday.

The BSE, with a daily average turnover of 35 million dollars, was the first target of the bombers who placed a car packed with explosives in its basement and set them off causing scores of deaths and widespread damage.

Advani Urges Anti-Pakistan Campaign

BK1403163093 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. L.K. Advani, today asked the center to launch a worldwide campaign against Pakistan for its alleged involvement in the Bombay bomb blasts. Addressing a crowded news conference after visiting the bomb-ravaged areas, Mr. Advani said Pakistan's involvement in terrorist attacks in India had been established in Punjab and Kashmir way back in 1984. The leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha urged the government to bring out a white paper on terrorism in India, including Pakistan's complicity. This would help India convince the international community to declare Pakistan a terrorist state, he said.

Interpol Help Sought

BK1503032893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] India has sought Interpol's assistance in investigating the series of bomb blasts which rocked Bombay on

Friday. The request has been made through the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation]. This was stated by a CBI spokesman in New Delhi. Meanwhile, the police yesterday recovered two powerful bombs from a scooter parked in the Dadar area of the metropolis. The bombs were later defused by the bomb disposal squad.

Explosive experts have begun the probe into the bomb blast which rocked the city on Friday. Samples from the blast site have been dispatched to the forensic laboratories for testing. The paramilitary units have been stationed at specific points to maintain law and order. The defense spokesman said that the Army is standing by and not yet deployed. Round-the-clock medical attention is being provided to the victims in various city hospitals. The death toll has gone up to 235; about 400 out of the more than 800 injured persons are said to be in a critical condition. Meanwhile, trading in the Bombay Stock Exchange [BSE] will resume today. The BSE president, Mr. G.B. Desai, told reporters that trading would be conducted for one hour in the afternoon in the old trading wing of the exchange. The new trading wing had suffered severe damage in the blast last Friday.

Muslim Brothers Suspected

BK1503043693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0423 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Bombay, March 15 (AFP)—Two Moslem brothers allegedly involved in smuggling have emerged as suspects in the Bombay bombings, a newspaper here reported Monday.

Yaqub and "Tiger" Momen abandoned their expensive flats in Mahim district and escaped, apparently to Dubai, after the bombings Friday which left almost 300 people dead, The Daily quoted police as saying.

In a front-page report, it said police "strongly suspect" the involvement of the brothers in the series of 11 powerful explosions which rocked India's financial capital.

Police Commissioner Amarjeet Singh Samra and crime branch chief M.N. Singh could not immediately be reached for comment on the report.

The newspaper quoted senior inspector of police Prabhakar Jadhav as saying a brown van found abandoned Friday night with seven AK-56 rifles and four grenades near Bombay's Century Bazaar belonged to Yakub Momen.

Century Bazaar was one of the sites rocked by the explosions.

Residents in the Momens' neighbourhood told the newspaper they had seen hectic activity in the early hours of Friday on the ground floor of the building where the brothers lived.

"I saw a lineup of around 15 cars and vans," a witness said. "At least 50 to 60 persons were hurriedly packing small cardboard boxes into blue suitcases. These suitcases were then placed in the (luggage boots) of the cars."

"The operation went on till around 5.45 a.m. The garage was later washed," the witness told The Daily.

Residents said both Yaqub and Tiger Momen were present when the boxes were being loaded into the cars and that the families of the two brothers had not been seen for some days.

Police raided the Momens' flats on Friday night after the discovery of the van but found no one there. They seized 400,000 rupees (13,333 U.S. dollars) and an album of photographs and some documents.

The Daily quoted police as describing the brothers as "notorious smugglers."

No group has so far claimed responsibility for the blasts in the western Indian metropolis. Police have previously mentioned Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger guerrillas as possible suspects, noting their expertise in explosives.

Governmment Statement in Parliament

BK1503090093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] The government today assured Parliament that it is determined to meet the challenge posed by the Bombay blasts of Friday with all the resources and expertise at its command. The center and the Maharashtra government will do their best to bring the culprits to book as expeditiously as possible. Both the houses were told that the ghastly acts have been designed to hurt the country's economic progress and to thwart the nation's economic growth. This grave challenge must be fought by all.

The statement was made by the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, in the Lok Sabha, and the minister of state for home, Mr. P.M. Sayeed, in the Rajya Sabha. Mr. Chavan made the statement after the Lok Sabha decided to take up for discussion an adjournment motion on the issue moved by Mr. Somnath Chaterji, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist]. The Rajya Sabha is discussing the issue through a calling attention motion raised by Mr. Pramod Mahajan, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], and several other members.

Both the houses were informed that investigations are in progress and experts are ascertaining the nature of explosives and the detonating mechanism used and their countries of origin. International agencies, including Interpol, have been contacted and the government is in touch with police and security agencies abroad to determine external linkages. Careful study of similar incidents in other countries has been simultaneously taken up.

The statement said six more companies of paramilitary forces have been rushed to Bombay in addition to 15 companies already deployed there. Nineteen columns of Army have also been deployed in selected locations as a precautionary measure. Precautions have also been taken at international airports. The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, who visited Bombay on Saturday [13 March], has directed the investigating agencies to follow every lead in the country and outside to identify the culrpits.

Giving details of the incident, the statement said a series of powerful bomb explosions occurred at 11 places in Bombay between 1320 and 1600 on Friday. He said commercially important and crowded places in the city were selected to strike fear and panic and inflict maximum damage. He said till last evening 235 persons were reported to have died and 1,214 persons wounded. Out of these 556 persons have been discharged after medical treatment and 658 persons are still in various hospitals. He said 59 of them are still reported to be in critical condition.

Moving the adjournment motion in the Lok Sabha, Mr. Somnath Chaterji, CPI-M, describing the statement of the home minister as disappointing as it contained nothing new. He said even after the lapse of 72 hours after the blasts no breakthrough has been achieved to apprehend the culprit.

The Maharashtra chief minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, visited the Bombay Stock Exchange [BSE] today and urged the market men to give domestic and foreign investors clear signal that the country's economic reforms will continue. Addressing the BSE brokers and members in the old trading wing, Mr. Pawar said his first priority will be to restore investor's confidence.

New Bomb Found 15 Mar

BK1503093093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0855 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] New Delhi, March 15 (AFP)—Explosives experts defused a bomb Monday [15 March] found hidden in a scooter in Bombay's bullion market, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

Bomb squad officers also rushed to a railway bridge in central Bombay and suburban train services were interrupted after a telephone caller warned that explosives had been planted there, the news agency said. PTI said that the device found in the scooter at the Zaveri Bazaar bullion market in south Bombay was more powerful than the bomb which ripped through the Bombay Stock Exchange on Friday.

Eleven bomb blasts rocked the western Indian city on Friday and left nearly 300 people dead and 1,250 injured. One of the blasts occurred in the Zaveri Bazaar area.

On Sunday, sappers defused another powerful bomb found in a scooter in Bombay's central Dadar residential and commercial district.

Chavan Notes Clues Obtained

BK1503145493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] The Lok Sabha has rejected the adjournment motion moved by the opposition on the situation arising out of the Bombay blasts. One hundred and forty members voted against the motion and 106 in favor, while three abstained. The motion was moved by Mr. Somnath Chaterji, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist].

Intervening in the discussion, the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, assured the House that the government will make every effort to track down the culprits responsible for the ghastly act. He said intelligence agencies have got some vital clues and investigations are continuing. Mr. Chavan said the brain behind the incident seems to be outside the country, but there are people inside who have been used as agents and it is our duty to find out these traitors.

He said it is too early to rule out the possible involvement of any foreign outfit, including the ISI [Pakistan's Inter-Service Intelligence] in the absence of any conclusive proof. The home minister said he cannot divulge all the information available with the intelligence agencies as it would hamper investigation.

Police Commissioner on Arrests

BK1503155493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1506 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Bombay, March 15 (AFP)—Police arrested two people Monday in connection with the bombings here last week and fought a gunbattle with two notorious gangsters also wanted for the attacks, the Bombay police chief said.

Police Commissioner Amarjit Singh Samra, announcing the first breakthroughs in the case, said the two members of the local underworld allegedly involved in the series of bomb blasts escaped following Monday's shootout.

Samra also said that although police suspect that Bombay gangsters were involved in Friday's bombings "this is a crime that has international links." He did not elaborate.

The police chief confirmed a newspaper report that police were looking for two Muslim brothers, also with underworld links, who are believed to have fled to Dubayy.

He said that in the first arrests in the case police had detained the Muslim owner of a scooter store and his mechanic, also a Muslim, for selling three scooters which were subsequently found packed with explosives. He did not identify the pair. Samra said the bombs placed in the scooters did not go off because of defective timers.

Samra, speaking at a press conference, identified the two gangsters who escaped following the shootout as Philoo Khan, 30, and Mangesh Pawar, 26. He said both men had served time in prison and were wanted on unrelated murder and kidnapping charges.

Samra said the two men were among four people who booked the rooms in hotels here in which bombs later exploded. He said the suspects, who were armed with AK-47 assault rifles, escaped in a van after opening fire on police officers who tried to arrest them at a house in the Bandra district of Bombay.

The police chief said that the authorities had identified 10 people so far allegedly involved in the bombings.

"We have carried out several searches in the past few days. The underworld is on the run," he said.

"The people who operated here are only the hands. The brain is somewhere else," the police chief added. "This is a crime which has international links."

Update on Situation

BK1503165493 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Excerpt] In a major breakthrough, Bombay Police today arrested a notorious drug trafficker and three others after a shoot-out in connection with Friday's bomb blasts which rocked the metropolis. In another development, the police also seized two more scooters laden with explosives and defused them. But to top it all, trading resumed at Bombay Stock Exchange, the country's premier bourse, and the market showed a firm trend belying fears of a crash and sending positive signals to domestic and foreign investors.

We have this report on the day's remarkable developments in metropolis which is limping back to life.

[Unidentified correspondent] Here in Bombay, city police are closing in on the perpetrators of Friday's multiple bomb blasts which have claimed over 232 lives and injured more than a thousand people so far. Commissioner of police, A.S. Samra, revealed that in a hotel bomb blast in the suburbs, two of the accused have been identified—Tilu Khan and Mangeshkar Gajanand Pawar. They escaped from the police encounter near Varsova this afternoon after wounding a police officer. The Maruti car packed with explosives in Worli yesterday has been traced to the Memon brothers in Mahim. The family of five has, however, fled to Dubayy soon after the blasts took place. In the scooter case at Dadar, where scooter containing explosives, were defused by the bomb squad yesterday, the owner who sold it to three people on cash payment has been arrested. Two more scooters carrying powerful explosives were discovered in Zaveri Bazaar in South Bombay today and the bombs defused by the bomb squads. The chemicals in the explosives were similar to those of Friday's series of blasts. The bombs weighed 15 to 20 kg and had timer devices. In Nariman Point, the hub of Bombay's commercial activities, life is picking up. [passage omitted]

Security Tightened in Bihar Towns Before Strike

BK1403132693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] In Bihar, elaborate security arrangements have been made to maintain law and order in Chhota Nagpur and Santhal Pargana areas in view of tomorrow's bundh [strike] and subsequent economic blockade. The bundh call has been given by the All India Jharkhand Action Committee comprising 12 political parties and organizations to press for their demand for a separate state. More than 125 bundh supporters have been taken into custody. AIR Ranchi correspondent reports that 26 companies of paramilitary forces have been deployed in the area for safeguarding vital installations, public sector undertakings, and other sensitive points.

'Top' Punjab Militant Killed by Forces

BK1403145893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 14 mar 93

[Text] In Punjab, top militant Gurlal Singh alias Lali, a self-styled lieutenant general of a militant organization, was killed in an encounter with the security forces last night at village Loham in Ferozepore district. One AK-47 rifle and 2 kg of explosive materials were recovered from him. The DIG [deputy inspector general of police], Ferozepore Range, told our Chandigarh correspondent this morning that Lali, responsible for over 500 killings in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Punjab, was carrying a reward of 10 lakh rupees on his head.

Senior Kashmir Leader Abducted; 4 Punjab Militants Killed

BK1503034293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the senior Jamaat-i-Islami leader and former MLA [member of legislative assembly], Syed Ali Shah Gilani, was abducted by the militants from Soura Medical Institute in Srinagar yesterday. Mr. Gilani was undergoing treatment in the institute. Some armed youth entered the institute and took him away along with his son and son-in-law.

In Punjab, four militants were killed in two encounters with security forces early this morning. According to an official spokesman, two militants were killed at village Rajubela in Gurdaspur District and another two at village Adampur in Mansa District. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from them.

Five 'Dreaded Militants' Killed in Kashmir Encounters

BK1403034093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] In the Kashmir Valley, security forces achieved a major success yesterday when five dreaded militants, including Farooq Ahmed Feroo alias General Zia, and Nasirul Islam were killed in two separate encounters in

Srinagar City. The director general of police, Mr. B.S. Bedi, said the killed militants were wanted in connection with several incidents of crimes. Seven AK-47 rifles, one machine gun, two rockets, and one wirless set and a large quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered after these encounters.

Ten Policemen Defect to Kashmir Mojahedin

BK1303145093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, 10 policemen along with their arms and equipment defected to mojahedin in Tral in Pulwama District. According to KMS [Kashmir Media Service], the defectees belong to the 18th battalion of the armed Kashmir police. One of the defectees said they have crossed over to mojahedin as the Indian atrocities on Kashmiris have increased manifold and they want to fight Indian forces sided by side with the mojahedin. Meanwhile, Indian troops have martyred another four people during house-to-house search in the valley.

Pakistan's 'Proxy War' in Kashmir Decried

BK1303112893 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Commentary by journalist G.L. Kaul: "The Real Aim Behind Cheap Proxy War in Kashmir"]

[Text] The cheap proxy war unleashed by Pakistan in Kashmir has already put a brake to the unprecedented and unique growth that the state recorded during the 1980's. In fact, it has put much more at stake in Kashmir. A painful feeling lingers in the valley that composite, peaceful, and humanitarian culture of Kashmir has been mauled. If terrorism continues in the valley, the clock of economic development will be put back to where it was in 1947. Terrorism has already endangered the lives of peaceful citizens, created dread and fear, darkened the horizon, and resulted in almost total migration of the major ethnic minority, besides migration of about 20,000 persons of the majority community.

Despite continued liberal central assistance, the economy of the state has been affected, creating problems for law-abiding Kashmiris. Tourism in the valley has been dropped to almost a grinding halt. Similar would have been the fate of handicraft and horticulture but for prompt steps taken by the central and state governments. During the 1980's, the state had recorded unprecedented development in almost all the spheres and the rate of growth for a number of years was even double the national average. This is somewhat unique for an economy which for reasons of pollution and terrain cannot make heavy industry as the base of its development. Per capita assistance for the state during the first five-year plan, which worked out to 40 rupees for Jammu and Kashmir as against average of 24 rupees for all other states, went up to 2,185 rupees during the sixth five-year plan, whereas the average for all other states continued its slow pace and just went up to 258 rupees only. During the eighth plan, a per capita outlay of 6,000 rupees for the state has been already approved by the Planning Commission. This special consideration for the state in financial matters, too, has resulted in highly impressive all-round results. The production of fruits, which stood at only 50,000 tons in 1947, has now gone over 800,000 tons. In most of the spheres also, similar results have been achieved. The state has also achieved the unique distinction in the field of structural land reforms. It is the only place in the subcontinent where absentee landlordism has been completely abolished and the tiller happens to be the real owner of the land. This has ushered in a silent revolution in the rural Kashmir.

Given this background, Pakistan has done no service to Islam or Kashmiris by diverting the weapons, received gratis and meant to fight communism, to Kashmir and by training and misguiding the otherwise peaceful youth of the valley in the use of firepower. On the face of it, Pakistan has done all this on the pretext of defending Muslims or Islam. The real aim, however, has been to extend and to annex more territory. Similarly, fake nature of expressions of Pakistan's concern for the people of Jammu and Kashmir is evident from the fact that in comparison to the unprecedented development that has taken place in Jammu and Kashmir, the development in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir has been just dismal. Where has the fake Pakistani concern for Islam and the people of Kashmir led them to? It has only resulted in death, destruction, and migration of a whole community, and putting a brake on the ever buoyant growth in the valley without Pakistan ever being in sight of achievement of its real aim. This fake concern of Pakistan has led even the founder-leader of the so-called JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front], Mr. (?Masoom) Qureshi, to warn Kashmiris that Pakistan is defending neither Muslims nor Islam and not for that matter even human rights. Referring to Islamabad's superficial concern for the plight of Muslims, Mr. Qureshi has ridiculed it and asked why Pakistan is not doing anything about Bosnia or for the 400 Muslims deported from Israel, or the Kurds in Turkey. Mr. Qureshi has further said that Pakistan is only trying to befool the people and avowed that if there is peace in Kashmir, Pakistan's political class and its generals will be out of business and this is what Pakistan is defending.

GATT Proposals To Be Opposed if Farmers Hurt

BK1303040893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] The prime minister has categorically stated that the Government will not accept the Dunkel proposals if they are detrimental to the interests of the Indian farmers. He termed as baseless the rumors that the government is under pressure to accept these proposals.

Addressing a rally at Sikar in Rajasthan yesterday, he reiterated the government's commitment to improve the condition of farmers.

The prime minister said that the Ayodhya incident and the subsequent riots had an adverse affect on the national economy. He said communalism has no place in our country as all the religions enjoy equal freedom.

Speaking on the occasion, the agriculture minister, Mr. Bal Ram Jakhar, cautioned the people against the communal forces trying to divide people.

Iran

Yazdi Friday Prayers Sermon 12 Mar

LD1203145493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Second Friday prayers sermon delivered by Ayatollah Mohamed Yazdi, head of the judiciary, in Tehran—recorded]

[Excerpts] There are a few points to which I will try to refer briefly. The first is the forthcoming Jerusalem Day marches—the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan. Please pay attention to the present conditions in the world of Islam, the recent events surrounding the world, and specially events in Palestine. These facts make it imperative for the world of Islam to show solidarity in attending to the issue of Jerusalem. We hope Muslims all over the world will attach special importance to that day. Jerusalem Day is a very precise and cutting instrument which sooner or later, God willing, will achieve the final result, the liberating of Jerusalem from its occupiers. [passage omitted]

The next issue concerns events in Bosnia-Hercegovina, including the imposed project which has been drawn up for the Muslims. As you know, the said project gives about half of their land to the Serbs, in addition to the territories which they have occupied by slaughtering Muslims and driving them out of their homes. This is a totally imposed project—against Muslims.

You have heard that the Bosnian president said he will not take part in talks. Yet, in the Security Council they say that the embargo of the Serbs must be made tighter. When we hear and read these statements we are baffled. We wonder about what they say and about what they have done. During this period, to what resolution have the criminal Serbs—who are history's criminals and the ones who have left the darkest stain of shame on human and European civilization—paid attention? What pressure have international outfits placed on them? What serious and practical steps have been taken to solve the issue? What can be achieved by such trivial talks?

A point comes to my mind which I will add to this debate—you may have heard of it. Usually, in its policy statements the Vatican pays consideration to the policy of the Westerners. If you look at its statements and views you will see that generally, if the Vatican does not support the policies of the West, at least it is extremely considerate to those policies. Yet, the problem has gone on so far that as you will see, the leader of the Catholic Church, at one prayer ceremony, uttered statements which I will quote in translation—apparently the translation is correct. See how far the violation of human rights and massacres have gone, to the extent that even those who shroud their words in political clothing have had to refer to them in some way. The gentleman says that contemporary culture is following the mirage of humanism which has been built on the basis of horrible aggression against the status of human beings. [sentence as heard] Does that not refer to genocide, to ethnic cleansing, and to the extermination of Muslims?

Things have become clearer. It seems as if people are on the edge of a whirlpool. In this century of science and technology, when we are capable of fathoming the secrets of the universe, when human beings can claim to have made progress, and rightly so—human beings have advanced so far that they have penetrated the secret of galaxies, have sent equipment to take pictures and gather information about the most distant stars which are millions of light years away—how can creatures who have made so much progress in this century be unable to do anything and stand idly by when horrific acts of aggression are committed? How can people claim to support human rights when such horrific crimes are committed?

Now is the time to return to God. This is one interpretation we can put on things: turn to God now. Step closer to God. At a huge gathering, a Christian leader, the leader of the Catholics, said in relation to events—in the reports it has been suggested that the developments in Bosnia-Hercegovina were also mentioned—with reference to that bloodshed, he said that these horrific acts of aggression must be stopped, and there is no other way to stop them than to turn to God; to put aside this savage [word indistinct]. At the end of his remarks, he recommended respect for human rights. As long as one does not turn to God, it is impossible to protect and preserve human rights. As long as people do not turn to God and have faith in the creator of the world and human beings, how can they protect human rights?

We are watching developments and we listen to the news. We do our utmost to tell the world about the oppression of Muslims. But let me say once again that we are eagerly awaiting the formation of a special court which will try Serbian war criminals who have committed such savage crimes against the Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina, against women, children, and poor and weak Muslim people; crimes which are very difficult to hear of and to talk about. They must receive their just deserts. [Crowd chants in support]

I wish to add one or two sentences here, to make the world realize that because of the method it has adopted in the name of safeguarding human rights, in order to protect within certain boundaries regimes which do not refrain from any tyranny under the pretext of their right of sovereignty, it is impossible to safeguard human rights in this way. [sentence as heard] We are pursuing this and we believe that sooner or later a day will come when the human community will approve that a court should be set up instead of a place of arbitration. A court should exist with executive powers so as to prevent all the tyranny, violation, ruthless policies, and other acts of barbarism committed by some individuals under the pretext of safeguarding one's sovereignty. This is an issue and we are awaiting such a day.

Time is short and I will condense my remarks. There was a blast at a trade center. One source says Baghdad is responsible for avenging the anniversary of the so-called allied war against Iraq. Another source says that the Egyptian Islamic fundamentalists are responsible. This is said because of the nationality of one of those detained. Another says it is related to the Mosad espionage organization. Another person says that it is basically a Palestinian problem and, since America is the only supporter of the occupying regime, the problem stems from Palestinians. Well, they say all this and then we see that the U.S. President stresses that one should not make haste in pronouncing judgement. Yes it is true, one should not make haste in judgement.

Under these same circumstances, the Zionist regime is launching a wave of propaganda against Iran. It is repeating a series of baseless allegations that it has made many times before. After repeating these allegations you saw the White House issue a statement of support. Now one can understand the events which followed the remarks made by the U.S. ambassador in Israel. There the U.S. ambassador said: We may not be able to continue U.S. aid to Israel due to our own economic difficulties. But shortly afterwards you saw the White House spokesman say: No, U.S. aid to Israel will continue as before. What can one understand from these events? They originally created Israel in this part of the world for events such as this, for the same satanic deeds. The aid is given and protection is provided for the sake of the same goals and objectives. That is, to create discord and sedition among the Muslims, and to do other things as they are doing.

We hope that the stone-throwing revolution will succeed, God willing. I have written one or two Arabic sentences that I will mention. This is a new initiative in revolution. Is it not true that the stone-throwing revolution is the second phase of blood's victory against the sword? Blood gained victory against the sword in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Blood succeeded in breaking the sword of the oppressors. [passage omitted]

We also have the accord between Afghan jehadi groups which you are all aware of. The only thing that we have to add to that is what we have said from the beginning, and we say it once again, that all Afghan groups should cooperate to solve their differences through discussions and exchanges of views. They should not continue to destroy that country which has already become so weak. They should set aside their power struggles, they should stop being constantly at each others' throats which results in the destruction of the country. That is a very wrong method and a mistake. All groups and races should come and sit together in order to satisfy God, and, God willing, they will achieve something useful, turning their country into an Islamic, free, developing, independent country. After so much destruction caused by their war against the communists, today is no longer the day of clashes and war.

Our only recommendation to Afghan leaders and chiefs is that you should come to your senses and do something, God willing, that enables you to begin the reconstruction of your country.

What is currently taking place in Tajikistan, Egypt, Algeria, and other places is a discussion which I cannot explain because my time is up. But we can conclude that Islam has found its way and one cannot fight Islam. Waging war against Islam does not block its path, it may make its progress a little difficult, but cannot block its way. [passage omitted urging people of Iran to help the deprived, offering condolences to families of 1,000 soldiers who were killed during the Iran-Iraq war and whose bodies were buried today. He also says that he is not delivering the Arabic sermons himself due to a shortage of time]

Tripartate Talks Held on Afghan Peace Accord

Afghanistan's Rabbani Arrives

LD1303152093 Tehran IRNA in English 1452 GMT 13 Mar 93]

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA—Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani, here Saturday [13 March] lauded Iran for its "effective" role in a peace accord signed by Afghan mojahedin groups and called for continued Iranian cooperation in maintaining peace and stability in his country.

Rabbani, who was talking to reporters at Tehran airport upon his arrival here from Mecca, Saudi Arabia, denied some news reports that a new document had been inked in Saudi Arabia.

"No new document has been signed in Saudi Arabia. Only the Arabic text of the Islamabad agreement was inked again by the parties involved," he said.

President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who greeted the Afghan president at the airport, said the Islamabad accord has proceeded well and according to Iran's wish up to the present time.

He said the Iranian Government has always tried to bring about sincerity and cooperation among Afghan mojahedin groups for reconstruction of their war-ravaged country.

"Running the government in Afghanistan has no advantages and to undertake such a responsibility needs devotion and self-sacrifice," President Rafsanjani reiterated.

The president vowed Iran would do all within its power to ensure that the peace accord would bear result. He also voiced the Islamic republic's opposition to any moves in Afghanistan which might divide mojahedin organizations.

Pakistani, Afghan Premiers Arrive

LD1303160093 Tehran IRNA in English 1525 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA—Top-ranking delegations from Afghanistan and Pakistan arrived in Tehran Saturday [13 March] afternoon to discuss peace in Afghanistan.

The Pakistani Premier Nawaz Sharif, accompanied by the newly appointed Afghan prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar arrived here from Islamabad. Afghan President Borhannodin Rabbani arrived earlier.

Sharif and his delegation were greeted at the airport by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The Afghan and Pakistani leaders are due to develop Islamabad peace accord in Tehran. Sharif's entourage also includes Pakistan's minister of state for foreign affairs, Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, Labour Minister Mohammad Ejazul Haq, leader of Afghanistan National Liberation Front Sebghatollah Mojadeddi, and representatives of the Islamic Unity Party Ayatollah Fazel and Karim Khalili.

A delegation from Saudi Arabia is also expected to take part in Tehran peace talks.

Prime Minister of Pakistan Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said upon arriving here Saturday that Iran, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia played a key role in the victory of the Afghan people's Jihad (Holy War).

Sharif, who is accompanied by several Afghan Mojahedin leaders, expressed hope that Iran, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia would succeed in establishing peace in Afghanistan.

President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who welcomed the Pakistani and Afghan officials at Tehran airport, called on Afghanistan's neighboring countries to cooperate and help in reconstructing that country which he said suffered great losses during its Jihad.

The president felt confident that assistances from Islamic countries would pour into Afghanistan as soon as the latter's internal disturbances ended.

Rafsanjani expressed hope that people and Mojahedin groups of Afghanistan would soon help establish peace and begin reconstruction of their country.

Pakistan's Sharif Makes Statement

BK1303165293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif arrived in Tehran this afternoon along with the Afghan leaders on a day's visit at the invitation of Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. They were warmly received at the airport by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, cabinet ministers, the Pakistani ambassador, and senior officials. Some ministers and members of Parliament also accompanied the prime minister. Soon after arriving in Tehran, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and the Afghan leaders held informal talks for 15 minutes with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in the airport's VIP lounge.

In a statement on arrival at Tehran, the prime minister said his landing in the fraternal country of Iran is a matter of great delight for him. He described the occasion as extremely auspicious because he was accompanied by his Afghan brothers who have, by the grace of God, successfully concluded a peace accord which will help accelerate the process of establishing peace and stability in Afghanistan. This occasion is also of special importance because the Afghan accord reflects the statesmanship, understanding, and foresight of the Afghan brothers and Pakistan. Iran and Saudi Arabia have also played their role in bringing the Afghan brothers closer and helping them arrive at the peace accord. It is better that not only in Pakistan but also in Saudi Arabia and Iran we should express our delight on this historic occasion. It may be said that this occasion is the culmination of the concerted efforts of Pakistan and Iran to help the Afghan jihad and to promote reconciliation in Afghanistan.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and the Afghan leaders will exchange views with the Iranian president particularly on the Islamabad accord and on matters of mutual interest. The leaders of various Afghan groups signed this accord last week to resolve the Afghan crisis.

Iran Offers Peacekeeping Troops

LD1303220793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif met with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Saturday [13 March] evening. Mr. Velayati and a number of officials from the two countries were also present. The prime minister of Pakistan thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its efforts toward eliminating Afghanistan's problems, and toward achieving the recent agreement between the Afghan jehadi groups. Underlining the common grounds for cooperation between the two countries in the Economic Cooperation Organization and international organizations and forums, Nawaz Sharif called for the further expansion of bilateral ties.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, having thanked the prime minister of Pakistan for his remarks, expressed gratitude for his efforts toward resolving the differences among the Afghan jehadi groups. He added: We are ready to dispatch a peace-keeping force to Afghanistan in order to maintain peace in that country, and hope that other Islamic countries will also cooperate in that connection.

Remarking on the growing economic and commercial exchanges between Iran and Pakistan, the president stressed the need for their expansion.

Tripartite Talks Detailed

LD1403074293 Tehran IRNA in English 0643 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA—Leaders of Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan met here Saturday [13 March] night to review the situation in Afghanistan and the peace accord signed in Islamabad between rival Afghan mujahideen groups earlier this month.

President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani of Iran, Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan, and President Borhanoddin Rabbani of Afghanistan held their first round of talks in the Iranian capital shortly after their arrival here Saturday. Rabbani arrived from Mecca, Saudi Arabia, and Sharif, accompanied by Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar arrived from Islamabad.

During the talks President Hashemi-Rafsanjani voiced satisfaction with the agreement reached among the Afghan groups and said Islam's enemies were responsible for sowing discord among Muslim countries in general and Afghanistan in particular. He expressed hope that global arrogance would fail to create further disputes among the Afghan groups and that the Afghan people and Government would embark on reconstructing their country in a brotherly and cordial atmosphere.

Turning to the numerous problems of the Islamic world including those of Palestine and Tajikistan, the president stressed that the world [words indistinct] enemies would not resolve their problems and that they should overcome their problems themselves and decide about their own destiny. He also expressed hope that practical cooperation towards reconstruction and rehabilitation of Afghanistan would be made in a near future.

The president said the Islamabad peace accord provided favorable grounds for the Muslim countries to investigate at the forthcoming meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference in Pakistan the ways of contributing to Afghanistan's reconstruction.

He referred to the Afghan refugees living in Iran as guests of the Islamic Republic and ensured Afghan officials not to be concerned about their destiny in Iran and Pakistan because "we will continue to host them until establishment of peace and tranquility in your country."

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif referred to the tripartite talks as very crucial and lauded Iran's role in the peace talks among Afghan leaders in Islamabad. Enumerating the problems created by oppressive forces for the Muslim countries worldwide, he said that world powers exerted dual pressure on Muslim countries under the pretext of fundamentalism and stressed that they practised double- standards.

Emphasising that Islamic countries should deploy their rich human, economic, political and military resources for progress and development, he said if Muslim countries unite together and rely on themselves, no country would be able to bully them. In conclusion, he hoped that the Afghan leaders would implement the principles of the peace agreement sincerely.

The Afghan President Rabbani also hailed Iran's support for Afghanistan and vowed that the Afghan nation would never forget Tehran's assistance. Turning to the mischievous acts by the enemies to fan the flames of disputes and clashes in Afghanistan, he said Afghanistan stood beside her brotherly and Muslim countries like a powerful arm and would not let the problems of the Islamic world be increased and their resources destroyed from within.

He called on brotherly countries especially Iran and Pakistan to continue their support for the holy jihad of the Afghan nation as before and stay beside them during the reconstruction era. He also thanked Iran and Pakistan for hosting millions of Afghan refugees.

The Afghan Prime Minister Hekmatyar also praised the mediatory bids of Iran, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in removing misunderstanding among Afghan leaders. He stressed that Muslims needed tranquility and harmony more than any thing else under the present crucial conditions.

He ensured Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Sharif that both he and Rabbani were decisive to end the war in Afghanistan and were sincerely hopeful about the agreement. He hoped that they could implement the truce in the best possible way.

Praising Iran's support for the campaign of the Afghan nation, he called on the Iranian nation and Government to continue their support and assistance during the reconstruction era. In conclusion he called on President Rafsanjani to also sign the peace accord to further strengthen and consolidate it.

In another development Nawaz Sharif met with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani separately last night and discussed issues of mutual interest, the peace accord and Tehran-Islamabad ties. Referring to the common points in Tehran-Islamabad cooperation at the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) and other international organisations, Nawaz Sharif called for promotion of mutual ties.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that Iran was ready to send peace keeping forces to Afghanistan to preserve peace there. He also hoped that other Islamic countries would contribute peace-keeping forces. Turning to the ever-increasing economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries, the president stressed consolidation of mutual ties.

President, Afghan Leaders Comment

NC1403084593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] It was reported in the news that last night in Tehran trilateral talks were held among President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani, and Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Our first news report of this hour is devoted to a detailed report on these talks:

At last night's talks, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed his pleasure at the agreements reached, especially for the cessation of civil war in Afghanistan, saying: The Islamic Republic of Iran has constantly been alongside the Muslim Afghan people in their holy jihad and has given them unstinting support and assistance in the course of their struggle.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani elaborated: We have followed the recent peace talks among the mojahedin groups with interest. Now that the differences are approaching their final solution, we are confident that Muslims worldwide are happy. This is because recent events in Afghanistan generated a lot of concern in the Islamic world.

The president expressed his gratitude for the efforts of the delegations of the friendly fraternal countries in the signing of this accord and said: We are sensitive to the fate of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan. It was unbearable for us to know that those who were in the same trench with us yesterday in that country would turn on each other after the victory over a world superpower, thus destroying their country's resources with their own hands.

The president blamed the enemies of Islam for fanning the internal differences in Muslim countries, especially in Afghanistan and added: We hope that in the future the powers of world arrogance and ill-wishers will be unable to generate discord among our Afghan brothers and that Afghan officials and people will join hands in a sincere and brotherly atmosphere and devote their efforts to reconstruct their country.

The president called the friendly and amicable atmosphere created among the Afghan leaders hopeful, and added: We hope we will soon witness the practical implementation of cooperation among the various groups to advance the construction and reconstruction effort.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the agreements reached will prove an appropriate basis for assessing the ways and means for providing assistance for the reconstruction of Afghanistan at the next Islamic Conference Organization, scheduled to be held in Pakistan. He said the Afghan refugees in our country are guests of the Islamic Republic, adding: Afghan officials should not be concerned about the fate of their refugees in Iran or Pakistan; we will be their hosts, as we have been in the past, until peace and stability are established there and conditions are conducive to their return.

Our people understand the difficult conditions in Afghanistan. The president also mentioned the numerous problems of the Islamic world, including Palestine and the recent events in Tajikistan, saying: Unfortunately, our brothers and sisters in Palestine and Tajikistan are suffering a bitter fate. The Islamic world should know that enemies will never solve their problems; it should take their destinies in their own hands and surmount these difficulties.

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif described the talks as extremely sensitive and important, lauding Islamic Iran's valuable role in the course of the peace talks among the Afghan leaders in Pakistan. He said: If the direct efforts and support of the Islamic Republic of Iran had not been forthcoming in the course of these talks, victory would have been impossible. We, therefore, express our sincere gratitude to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Enumerating the problems the forces of world arrogance create for the Muslim nations, Sharif said: The Muslim countries of the world are currently under increased pressure from the international powers and are being labelled as fundamentalist. We are witnessing a policy of double standards being implemented with regard to Muslims.

He stressed the need to utilize the rich human, economic, political, and military resources of the Islamic countries for development, progress and expansion and said: If the Muslim countries were to unite and become self-reliant, no country would be able to impose its domineering policies on them.

In conclusion, Sharif expressed the hope that the Afghan leaders would sincerely implement the terms of the peace accord and assured them of Pakistan's continued support for Afghanistan's unity and solidarity.

Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani also expressed his appreciation of the Islamic Republic of Iran's support during the struggle of the Afghan people, saying: Our peace and friendship talks in Pakistan began under the supervision of the delegates of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia and reached a positive outcome in the holy city of Mecca. Now we are optimistic that our third session at Tehran will mark a superb conclusion to the war and bloodshed in Afghanistan and the beginning of a chapter of peace and stability.

Rabbani added: On my behalf, as well as on behalf of the oppressed Afghan nation, I thank the great leader, the president, and the hospitable and patient people of Iran.

I assure you that the Afghan nation will never forget the support and assistance of the Iranian people and Government.

Rabbani alluded to the efforts of the enemies of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan in fanning differences and conflict in Afghanistan, saying: Afghanistan wishes to be a strong arm alongside its fraternal and Muslim countries in the future and will not allow the problems of the Islamic world to be exacerbated further.

In conclusion, the Afghan president said he hopes friendly and brotherly countries, especially the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, will continue the support they extended during the holy jihad of the Afghan nation, and will not hesitate from further assistance in the reconstruction period. He once again thanked the officials and people of Iran and Pakistan for their hospitality to Afghan refugees.

The new Afghan prime minister, Golboddin Hekmatyar, discussed the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia in eliminating internal differences in Afghanistan, supporting the struggle of the Afghan nation, and giving refuge to Afghans. He said: Today, Muslims are living in very sensitive circumstances and need unity and solidarity more than anything.

Addressing our president and the Pakistani prime minister, Hekmatyar said: I assure you that Rabbani and I have agreed to end the war in Afghanistan. We are sincerely hopeful regarding this accord. We believe that we will be able to implement it in the best possible manner.

He lauded the Islamic Republic of Iran for its support to the struggle of the Muslim people of Afghanistan, saying: We hope in the reconstruction period as well, the support and assistance of the Government and the people of Iran will be on our side and that we will be able to benefit from their experiences, as in the past.

Concluding his remarks, he asked President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to sign the accord.

Islamabad Reports Sharif Remarks

BK1403145493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has expressed the need of formulating a unified stand by like-minded Muslim countries on various issues confronting the Muslim ummah [community]. He was speaking at the tripartite talks in Tehran last night. Talks between leaders of Pakistan, Iran, and Afghanistan were held in the Iranian capital to review the peace accord signed in Islamabad and the overall situation in Afghanistan. The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani of Iran, and President Borhanoddin Rabbani of Afghanistan held their first round of talks soon after their arrival in Tehran. In his address, the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, said:

[Begin Sharif Recording] The people of Pakistan, the people of Iran, and the people of Saudi Arabia, and all the other friends were now looking up to the Afghan leaders to bring stability back into Afghanistan. I am confident that insha Allah [God willing] we will provide all the moral, political, diplomatic and material support to our Afghan brothers to achieve their objectives.

The Muslim ummah is in a great distress today. Look at what is happening in Bosnia today; what is happening in Palestine today; what is happening in other parts of world where Muslims are living. Whether it will be Bosnia or Kashmir where Muslims are being tortured to death. There are gang-rapes committed against Muslim women and the atrocities which are being committed on these innocent Muslims are unprecedented. The stories which are coming out are alarming. Time has come to reduce our dependence and reliance on others and develop our own capabilities. A very serious discussion should take place in one of these days. Some of the Muslim countries, who feel from their heart that yes, this is the need of the hour, must get together and do some serious thinking about it and take some very vital decisions. [end recording]

The agreement, the prime minister said, has been reached due to the sagacity of all the leaders at the talks. He congratulated the Afghan leaders on their historic achievement and hoped they would implement the peace accord in letter and spirit. President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani of Iran, Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani of Afghanistan, and Premier-designate Golboddin Hekmatyar also spoke on the occasion.

The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, had bilateral talks with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani of Iran last night and discussed various aspects of the Islamabad peace accord, besides matters of mutual interest. The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, in a briefing to newsmen explained the salient features of the bilateral talks between the two leaders. A one-man committee consisting of a representative from Iran and Pakistan has been set up to pinpoint areas of mutual cooperation in various fields. The committee will also review the scope of further enhancing cooperation within the framework of ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization]. The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, stressed the need for promoting mutual ties between the two brotherly countries in all fields.

The Iranian president, reciprocating the feelings, stressed the need for consolidating mutual ties. In the context of the Afghan situation, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said Iran is ready to send peacekeeping forces to preserve peace there. He also hoped that other Islamic countries would contribute peacekeeping forces.

Kabul Reports Talks

LD1403180693 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, met Hojjat-ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in Tehran today. A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that, during these talks, which were also attended by Iranian Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati and a number of officials from the two countries, esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani expressed appreciation for the Iranian support [words indistinct] during the jihad years of the Afghan Muslim nation, in particular the Iranian support for the signing of peace accord between the Islamic State of Afghanistan and the jihadi leaders. He expressed the hope that peace will soon be restored in the country by the implementation of the recent peace accord and that the process of the reconstruction of Afghanistan may thus commence.

Welcoming the president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan to Iran, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed his pleasure at the peace accord concluded between the Islamic State of Afghanistan and the jehadi leaders. He expressed hope for further success of the people of Afghanistan in the restoration of peace and security and in the realization of the peace accord.

At this meeting the two countries emphasized the friendly relations between them and the expansion of reciprocal cooperation. They expressed their readiness for cooperation.

According to another report, esteemed Professor Rabbani and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Tehran yesterday afternoon after a visit to Saudi Arabia. At Tehran Airport, they were welcomed by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati, high-ranking Iranian government officials, members of the Afghan Embassy in Tehran, and a large number of Afghan refugees in Iran.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets With Rabbani

LD1403174993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] President Borhanoddin Rabbani of Afghanistan met and conferred with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning. During this meeting, which was also attended by Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and a number of officials from the two countries, Mr. Rabbani explained the latest political, social, and economic developments in Afghanistan and thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its support during various phases of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan's jihad, particularly in the recent phases of signing the peace accord among the various jehadi groups. He expressed the hope that, in the wake of the agreement reached between the jehadi groups of Afghanistan, security and peace will return to that country as soon as possible, so that the task of reconstruction may begin to repair the damage caused by the years of war in that country.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked President Rabbani for his explanations and expressed his pleasure at the conclusion of the recent agreements among various jehadi groups in Afghanistan. Referring to the sensitive situation in Afghanistan, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Progress is only possible through security and tranquillity; and the recent bitter events in Afghanistan should be a good experience to avoid repetition of such events in the future. The president wished success to the Muslim people of Afghanistan and stressed the need for the serious implementation of the articles of the accord signed among the jehadi groups of Afghanistan.

Rabbani Urges More Afghan Talks

LD1503110993 Tehran IRNA in English 1036 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] Tehran, March 15, IRNA—Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani says the Islamabad peace accord between rival Afghan factions has not solved everything yet. "To achieve lasting peace in Afghanistan, more negotiations are required," he told IRNA in an interview. Rabbani arrived here from Mecca, Saudi Arabia Saturday [13 March] to participate in a tripartite summit on Afghanistan also attended by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani of Iran and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan. Sharif who headed a delegation to Tehran including Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar, left the Iranian capital after the one-day summit on Sunday.

Rabbani in the interview with IRNA again spoke of his differences with Hekmatyar and expressed doubts of he would change his position. The key post of Defence Ministry is one of the points of difference between Rabbani and his hardline rival Hekmatyar. Rabbani believes that it should be held by Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, a member of Rabbani's Hezb-e Jami'at-e Eslami [Islamic Society Party].

"Hekmatyar should realize that Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's position should be stabilized for the sake of security in Kabul, and even if the latter refused to accept the post the prime minister should seriously ask him to do so," Rabbani said in the interview conducted Sunday evening. In Rabbani's opinion without Mas'ud's cooperation, Hekmatyar would definitely face a lot of problems.

According to the Islamabad accord, Hekmatyar is to pick up his cabinet ministers after consultations with the Afghan mujahideen leaders and will announce their names upon Rabbani's confirmation.

On the Islamabad accord, he said the end of the war is the main target. "To materialize this, we have made a lot of considerations and fulfilled the demands of certain people," Rabbani said, adding that he had been so generous to agree with Hekmatyar's premiership and a reduction in his presidential tenure from 2 to 1 ½ years.

Rabbani said the acceptance of the ministers by the president is a "condition" and to this end, he said, he had assigned a delegation to negotiate with the prime minister and other groups on the composition of the cabinet ministers so that they would receive "our confirmation."

On the share of various groups in the future Afghan government, he said no formula had yet been offered in this respect. "But the parties should get their share in the future government on the basis of the popular support they have."

Rabbani stressed that Afghanistan will need an Islamic army in the future and that Shah Mas'ud had already founded the main nuclei of such an amry. "More importantly," he said, "most of the arms in Afghanistan, military airports, jet fighters and heavy weapons are under his (Mas'ud's) command."

At the same time, Rabbani termed as a "must" the need to collect all heavy arms to restore security to Kabul and called for the supervision of representatives from the Afghan groups and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). He said as a first step, the collection of the heavy weapons would solve a major problem.

Rabbani also denied western media claims that rivalry between Iran, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia to exert further influence in Afghanistan was the cause of the civil war in that country. He said it was not even an ethnic or religious war. "Expansionist ambitions are behind the conflict in Afghanistan," he said.

President, Rabbani Comment

LD1503122893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] [Announcer] Mr. Borhannodin Rabbani, the president of Afghanistan, left Tehran this morning and was officially seen off by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The presidents of the two countries took part in an exclusive interview with our correspondent. Asked to give an assessment of the outcome of his talks with Mr. Hashemi- Rafsanjani, Mr. Rabbani said:

[Begin Rabbani recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Undoubtedly, whenever we have visited the Islamic Republic of Iran and held talks here, the talks have always been fruitful and beneficial. These talks, which were with the eminent president about the resolution of the current events and problems that exist in our country Afghanistan, and about issues relating to reconstruction and the cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Iran in this regard, were also very useful. We are certain that, God willing, the role played by the Islamic Republic of Iran will, once again, as in the time of our jihad and homelessness—when its role was very effective and decisive in connection with the establishment of the Islamic government and the provision of security in our country, and also in connection with reconstruction—the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran will, undoubtedly, be effective and decisive, and we are totally satisfied with the outcome of our talks.

[Correspondent] Thank-you very much, Mr. President. [end recording]

[Announcer] On the outcome of the discussions with the Afghan president and leader as well as the situation in Afghanistan, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said:

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In the discussions I felt that all the gentlemen have come to the conclusion that peace and cooperation is in the interest of Afghanistan. They now believe that conflict brings no benefit for anyone. On this basis they held the discussions and signed the agreement. It is their decision to solve their problems. Of course there are some unsolved issues, in execution. Our aim in the trip was to talk with all the involved parties as well as with the leaders of the combative [jihadi] groups to emphasize the need to show forgiveness in passing through this phase. The final solution will be through the process of work, cooperation, and the establishment of trust.

I think the most important effective element is trust. If the gentlemen emphasize their trust of each other, they will be able to deal well with the executive issues. This is what we aim at.

The other discussion that we had with Mr. Rabbani was on the conditions of Afghanistan. Well the people there have problems. A lot was destroyed during the war. The infrastructure has been destroyed in many places. Those who became refugees want to return. But they have nothing. No work, no homes, no roads, no investment structure. Only the natural resources of the country remain. I think Islamic countries should help and provide aid instead of talks and politics. They should provide aid and solve the problems of the people. If the issue of Afghanistan is not solved, it will not allow the neighboring countries to rest. Of course this can only be achieved through security. Although there is security in the provinces there also has to be security in Kabul. The foreign governments usually take up relations with Kabul. Today we had some talks with the governor of Herat. They are our neighbors. They say everything has been destroyed in the war. People want to return. But work and living conditions will have to provided for them. I hope they will use this opportunity and will follow it up. We have also signed the agreement as a witness and we will carry out our supervisory duties, God willing. [end recording]

Delegations Depart

LD1403100393 Tehran IRNA in English 0842 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA—Afghan Premier Golboddin Hekmatyar said here before winding up his one-day visit to Tehran that he abided by the Islamabad accord and hoped to form the Afghan cabinet in near future.

The newly-appointed Afghan premier arrived here along with Pakistani Premier Nawaz Sharif yesterday amid reports that he was unwilling to visit Tehran.

Earlier yesterday, an Afghan delegation headed by President Borhannodin Rabbani arrived here on a one-day visit for talks on the peace agreement.

Both Afghan and Pakistani delegations wound up their visit and left Tehran for Islamabad this morning.

"I sincerely abide by this (Islamabad peace) accord and hope to be able to form the cabinet soon," Hekmatyar told reporters at Mehrabad airport.

He added that all Jihadi groups have also announced their commitments to the accord with the hope to be able to reconstruct Afghanistan after years of war and destruction.

Hekmatyar, who is also leader of the Hezb-e Eslami-e [Islamic Party] of Afghanistan, added that Iran has played a key role in the achievement of the victory of the Jihadi groups and thanked the Islamic Republic for her assistance to the Afghan people during their 14 years of struggle.

Also speaking to reporters, Pakistani premier praised Iran for her efforts towards materializing the Islamabad accord and hoped that all Jihadi groups will practically comply with the accord and reconstruct their country through the assistance of Iran, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

The Afghani and Pakistani delegation were seen off at the airport by First Vice-President Hassan Habibi.

Habibi said at the airport that the Tehran talks were concentrated on the need to observe all the articles of the accord and stressed that any minor delay in implementation of the agreement would be detrimental to both the Afghan nation and reconstruction of their country.

He reiterated Iran's decisiveness to render all kinds of support to the Afghan brothers for reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Afghan Groups Urged To Heed Accord

LD1403125593 Tehran IRNA in English 1233 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA—"JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI" daily Sunday [14 March] urged all Afghan groups to think of the interests of Islam and the oppressed Afghan nation, avoid power struggle and not let the enemies of the Afghan nation infilitrate into their ranks.

An editorial in the Persian daily was commenting on the current visit to Tehran by the Afghan leaders for talks on the peace accord reached among eight major Afghan leaders in Islamabad last Sunday.

It noted that nearly a year after the victory of the Afghan Mojahedin and collapse of the Marxist regime in Kabul, all chances for real peace had been lost one after the other and war and fratricide had topped all the events in Afghanistan.

Referring to the Islamabad accord, the paper noted that reports speak of continued fighting among certain Afghan rival groups with victims being from among the oppressed Afghan people.

Continuation of such events could be considered as an alarm to the Afghan political and military leaders to watch the situation more vigilantly and avoid turning the newly-created hope to despair.

The Tehran talks could be a proper opportunity to strengthen and deepen the recent accord. At the same time, it should not be disregarded that the Afghan nation has certain enemies who try to revenge them through infiltrating into military and political groups and put them face to face with each other so as to provide a condition that peace and stability would never be established in Afghanistan.

The editorial said that the Afghan groups have time and again reached accords and decisively sweared to respect them but failed to respect their decision.

The expectation of all the friends of the Afghan nation is that the new accord be respected by all the Afghan groups and that the groups think of the interests and fate of the Afghan nation more than their own interests and prepare the ground for establishment of lasting peace and stabilitly in Afghanistan.

The sincere recommendation to the Afghan groups under such conditions is that they firstly take into account the interests of Islam and of the Afghan oppressed nation and not create a condition so as the taste of the fruits of 14 years of resistance of the Afghan people be turned into bitterness. Secondly, the paper said, they should avoid power struggle and most important of all, not let the aliens and the real enemies of the Afghan nation, under various pretexts, infiltrate into their ranks. Otherwise, it said, the recent accord is likely to face a fate similar to that of the previous ones, concluded JOMHURI.

'Ambiguities' of Agreement Viewed

LD1403233493 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1620 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Following the arrival of senior delegations from Pakistan and Afghanistan in Tehran, trilateral talks started to strengthen the Islamabad peace agreement. The talks were mainly concerned with the prime minister's prerogatives, the control of the defense council, and the participation of the Uzbek militias in government.

The Afghan delegations's periodic trips to Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Iran indicate the significance of the three countries in solving the problems of Afghanistan.

After many months of effort it now seems that the Afghan political and military leaders have reached an understanding within the context of an agreement and have formed, to some extent, the present and future prospects of Afghanistan. However, in the meantime, the latest reports say that sporadic clashes have again started in Kabul; these could be a warning in connection with the recent understanding. It is therefore necessary for the jihadi groups to be aware of the situation so as not to allow any hindrance of the peace process or the implementation of its articles. Within this context the Tehran talks could be an opportunity to strengthen the recent understandings.

Meanwhile, taking into account the good intentions and the effective role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the 14-year jihad of Afghanistan, a useful opportunity has been created to guarantee the recent agreement. The signing of the recent agreement indicates that all the Afghan groups have reached a common view on the necessity of reaching understanding, ending the bloodshed, and putting an end to killing among brothers.

The problem, however, is that the Afghan groups have reached agreements many times and have sworn with full vigor to honor their responsibilities, but they have been just as vigorous in breaking these very agreements. Therefore there has not yet been a common agreement that could be accepted and respected by all the groups. On this basis political experts show sensitivity on the guarantees of implementation of the Islamabad agreement. They believe that, although the agreement mentions the Islamic Conference Organization as the guarantor of the agreement, the reality is that the successful implementation of the recent understanding depends more on the flexibility of the jihadi groups.

The neighboring and friendly countries could be viewed as a secondary factor in forcing the jehadi groups to respect the articles of the agreement. Without doubt, just as these countries were successful in calling the various groups to discussions, they could be successful in the implementation of the agreement.

One of the main problems that could be pointed out in the recent agreement is the fact that only some of the basic principles have been the subject of agreement. Some other issues—which are not of little significance—have not been the subject of attention. Political experts believe that, if we are to hope for the implementation of the Islamabad agreement, it is necessary to solve all the ambiguities of the agreements. It is hoped that the Tehran talks may end these ambiguities.

Paper Says New Diplomatic Move Needed After NY Blast

NC1403111993 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 7 Mar 93 p 16

[Ahmad 'Azizi commentary: "The New York Explosion: A Prescription for All Ailments"]

[Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton has promised the U.S. voters that he would tackle deeprooted social and economic problems. He needs a quick solution to the open dossier on U.S. foreign policy, especially on the Middle East peace talks. Speed here would provide a backing for success in domestic policies. This is particularly significant in view of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's recent visit to the Middle East. This trip was not without result, as Christopher was able to sever the link between the deportee issue and the peace trend, thus paving the way for the progress of talks. THE NEW YORK TIMES has commented on the changes in the Middle East fronts and Hafiz al-Asad's tacit agreement to the gradual withdrawal from Golan Heights.

Israel is faced with continuous pressure from the intifadah and the Palestinian deportees. More than ever before, it needs a terrorist act to take place that can be blamed on the Palestinians so it can continue its extortion and justify its repression in the occupied areas. The Zionist lobby in the United States has recently dragged Israel's anti-Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] policy into the United States!

Husni Mubarak's malady pertains to his perpetuation. He is under pressure to consolidate a multiparty democracy to conform to the demands of the new world order. Muslim combatants have also made life a misery for him. By magnifying the alleged "religious terrorism" into a posture of defending democracy, he strengthens his trenches on two fronts.

Iran does not have to conform to the demands of the new world order. It does not desire liberal Western democracy. It does not concur with the trend of the so-called Middle East peace talks. It exposes and impedes U.S. and Western policies in the world. The West and the United States have always feel the need to inflict a decisive and shattering blow on Iran.

The explosion at New York's World Trade Center can provide the cure for all the woes mentioned above. Ostensibly, Muhammad Salamah has Palestinian links. He is connected to "a religious organization" determined to topple Mubarak and which, according to the U.S. State Department spokesman, "has Iran's support."

On the day of the explosion, Israel encouraged Egypt to accuse Iran. Husni Mubarak immediately warned of the proliferation of "religious extremist terrorism" stressing the need for "international cooperation" as soon as the first report on the FBI's findings was disseminated. Then the U.S. State Department issued a statement and, in a way, pointed a finger at Iran. The Western propaganda machinery ground into action and CNN began constantly displaying a list of countries that support terrorism. At the top of the list is Iran, shown as an active supporter.

The U.S. President takes a stance on every country said to be involved and promises a suitable response. U.S. and Western public opinion is mobilized in favor of any possible action, even military.

The threat against the national security of the Islamic Republic of Iran has become more serious. We should not give any pretext to the enemy. Officials are the only ones who should speak on the issue and no direct comment should be made. A new diplomatic move by the Islamic Republic of Iran is necessary in the United Nations, the region, and even in the West. The Egyptian regime should abstain from its recent destructive and baseless diplomacy and should not further destroy the valuable bonds between two Muslim nations.

Army Reports Attack by Counterrevolutionaries From Iraq

LD1303163793 Tehran IRNA in English 1542 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA—Iranian Armed Forces have chased a number of counterrevolutionary elements who had infiltrated the Iranian soil from inside Iraq, a military source announced here today.

He said during the chase some casualties were inflicted on the invaders. He did not disclose the date of the operation.

The source said following repeated assualts of the counterrevolutionary grouplets on the Iranian soil from Iraq, units of the Iranian Armed Forces repelled their movements during an operation inflicting some casualties on the elements who were escaping towards Iraq.

According to the source the assault had been launched from northwest of Iran.

Six Fighter Planes Raid Kurdish Party Offices

NC1303165193 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1615 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Aircraft of the Iranian Islamic Republic have attacked the headquarters of the Iranian Kurdistan Democratic Party's Political Bureau in the (Doli Shahidan) area.

At 1015 today, six warplanes launched air raids against the headquarters of the Kordestan Democratic Party's Political Bureau. According to preliminary reports, two party fighters were martyred and a number of others were wounded.

These surprise raids by the Iranian Islamic Republic are considered a flagrant violation of international law and the UN Security Council resolution regarding the protection of people in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Death Toll Updated

NC1403150993 Paris AFP in English 1441 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Paris, March 14 (AFP)—Iranian military aircraft bombed the headquarters of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran near the Iran-Iraq border, killing four people, the party said here Sunday.

Several people were also injured in the attack, carried out by six Iranian aircraft on Saturday morning, a party spokesman said. The spokesman said the attack took place in an area "protected by allied forces".

MKO Leader Threatens Retaliation

NC1403165393 Paris AFP in English 1620 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Paris, March 14 (AFP)—Iranian military aircraft bombed the headquarters of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran near the Iran-Iraq border, killing four people, the party said here Sunday.

Several people were also injured in the attack, carried out by six Iranian aircraft on Saturday morning, a party spokesman said. The spokesman said the attack took place in an area "protected by allied forces".

Iran's main armed opposition group, the Baghdad-based People's Mojahedin [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, MKO], denounced the attack and warned of retaliation at the "opportune moment."

"The Iranian resistance reserves the right to retaliate...at the opportune moment on Iranian territory," the group's leader, Mas'ud Rajavi, said in a statement received by AFP in Nicosia.

He described the raid as a "flagrant and repeated violation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598" which put an end to the 1980- 1988 Iran-Iraq war.

Iran carried out a raid against a People's Mojahedin camp in Ashraf, northeast of Baghdad, in April 1992, killing one person and wounding 11, according to the opposition group.

DPK Issues Statement

NC1503072093 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 14 Mar 93

["Text" of statement issued by the Political Bureau of the Democratic Party of Kordestan, DPK, on 13 March]

[Text] O respectable people of Kordestan, dear compatriots, international forums and organizations: At 1015 on Saturday 22 Esfand 1371, 13 March 1993, six Iranian

Armed Forces bombers savagely bombed the headquarters of the Democratic Party of Kordestan [DPK] Political Bureau. The enemies of freedom and humanity used cluster bombs to bomb peshmerga positions, a hospital, and houses around the headquarters and inflicted heavy damage on the local farming community.

Four worthy peshmerga—'Abdollah Rasulzadeh, Rasul 'Osmani, Hoseyn Shamami, and Mahmud Mahmudpur—were martyred and several others wounded. Many farmers' homes were destroyed.

The Political Bureau headquarters is situated on the Iran-Iraq border inside Iraq in an area inside the 36th parallel, which the Western allies have declared a no-fly zone.

The clerical regime's air strike is more than an attack on the DPK. The battles between the reactionary regime mercenaries and the DPK combatants occur in various parts of Iranian Kordestan. Pursuing this principle and despite various opportunities, our party has not inflicted blows on regime mercenaries outside the Iranian border. So this air strike is primarily an aggression against the territory of a neighboring country, which, under current conditions, is not at war with Iran.

This is the second air strike on Iraqi territory in the past year. In Farvardin of this Iranian year [beginning 21 March 1992], Iran's Air Force carried out a severe attack on one of the centers of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO] 100 km from Baghdad.

The attack on the DPK's Political Bureau is, at the same time, an aggression against the movement of the Kurdish people in Iraqi Kurdistan, the political organizations in Iraqi Kurdistan, and—in general—the Kurdish people in Iraqi Kurdistan. Hypocritically, the turbanned men's regime portrays to be its friend.

The attack as good as ridicules the United States and its allies, who have declared this area a no-fly zone and do not allow the Iraqi Government to fly even civilian planes in the area. [Word indistinct] the skies of Iraqi Kurdistan are banned to Iraqi aircraft, so Iranian Air Force bombers can maneuver as they wish and carry out air operations against opponents of the Islamic Republic. This air strike shows disrespect for all international laws and norms, which consider an attack by one country against another's territory a breach of law.

Undoubtedly, if, after the bombing of the MKO base last spring, governments and international forums and organizations had adopted a serious stance against this Iranian aggression and condemned it, today the clerical regime would not have carried out a second attack on its opponents in a neighbor's territory.

The bombing of the DPK's Political Bureau destroyed several Iraqi Kurdish brothers' homes and inflicted heavy financial damage on them.

The DPK Political Bureau expects the world and international forums and organizations to protest this inhuman act by the clerical regime of Iran and to not allow the regime to ridicule UN decisions or trample on international laws. In particular, we expect the leaders of the Kurdish movement in Iraq and the Iraqi Government, in the territory of which this crime was perpetrated, to say they are very dissatisfied with this incident and want international forums and organizations to block such aggression by the Islamic Republic against their homeland.

We assure friends and supporters of the freedom-seeking movement of the people of Iranian Kordestan and we also assure the spiteful enemies of the Kurdish people that such military attacks cannot harm the revolutionary determination of the Kurdish people inside Iranian Kordestan and that our people's national-democratic movement will continue along the path to fulfilling its just aspirations. The bombing of the Political Bureau headquarters will make the party combatants more determined in their combat and devotion and will further reveal the inhuman face of the clerical regime.

The DPK Political Bureau expresses endless regrets over the martyrdom of the dear combatants and extends its condolences to their families, friends, and comrades and expresses its wishes for the quick recovery of the wounded. The Political Bureau renews its allegiance to the pure souls of these four martyrs and of all the martyrs who have died for freedom. It promises to continue the glorious path charted by these dear ones until final victory and democracy and autonomy.

Greetings to the everlasting memory of the martyrs. Death to the inhuman and antipopular regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Signed] The DPK Political Bureau

[Date] 22 Esfand 1371 [13 March 1993]

Vice President Amrollahi Views Nuclear Program

LD1303113893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] The people of Iran have the right to have at least two nuclear power stations at their disposal out of the 420 existing nuclear power stations in order to secure the electricity they need.

Mr. Amrollahi, vice president and head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, at a news conference today attended by representatives of the domestic and foreign mass media announced this news and said: The policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran has always been to made peaceful use of nuclear energy. This fact has been repeatedly announced with official confirmation by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Mr. Amrollahi pointed out that the Islamic Republic of Iran does not believe that power lies in the possession of nuclear weapons. The fate of the former Soviet Union, which possessed 30,000 atomic warheads, proves this claim. He said: Presently, Israel has 200 atomic bombs at its disposal, and it has not yet signed the treaty banning the use of nuclear weapons. At the same time, there is no movement or climate of criticism to confront that regime.

He stressed: The budget that Iran has allocated to atomic energy in its power stations is one-thousandth of the budget that Israel is spending on the production of nuclear weapons.

You will hear the details of this news conference later in this news bulletin.

More on Remarks

LD1303132293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Mr. Amrollahi, vice president and head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, participated in a news conference today. I draw your attention to its details. [passage omitted]

Mr. Amrollahi said: The secretary general of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], Mr. Hans Blix—responding to the climate of hostility created by the West by reports that there are nuclear weapons in Iran—has announced that, if America has evidence of the non-peaceful use of atomic energy in Iran, then this evidence should be sent to the IAEA. [passage omitted]

The vice president also announced the news that Iran is currently working on 12 uranium discovery projects in Iran. He noted that five projects have been completed in Iran to date, and Iran intends to sell the uranium to different countries after extraction because uranium enrichment is a very expensive process that is beyond our capability.

Referring to the purchase of one nuclear power station from China, the head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization said: China is among the countries that observes with precision the IAEA's standard in building nuclear power stations. We have purchased a medium-sized nuclear power station from China so that we can use it to supply 20 percent of the electricity needed by our country, while we also benefit from it's use for agricultural and medical purposes.

Mr. Amrollahi said that Iran produces 80 percent of its radioactive-medicinal [radio-daru] needs and said: Currently, Iran is protecting over 16,500 employees from radiation with the sterilization facilities and disposable material that also exist in the country. Replying to a question, Mr. Amrollahi said: We currently do not have any nuclear cooperation with any of the newly independent Central Asian countries.

Regarding the final outcome of Iran and Germany's cooperation over the Bushehr plant project, he said: Despite the decision of the international court that Iran is the owner of the equipment and the parts of that power plant, the German Government is showing disrespect toward this decision and is trying to reverse this decision by creating an adverse climate. Our problem, therefore, continues.

Pakistan

Spokesman Rejects Indian Allegations Over Bombay Blasts

BK1503102693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 10[illegible]0 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad today expressed regret and surprise over the statements of veteran Indian politicians, including Bharatiya Janata Party leader L.K. Advani, who are unjustifiably implicating Pakistan in the violent incidents that occurred in Bombay last Friday. The spokesman regretted the reprehensible tendency of these Indian political leaders of holding Pakistan guilty for all untoward incidents that take place in India. Such harsh, baseless, and mischievous statements accusing Pakistan of being involved in terrorist activities will not in any way help in the resolution of problems. Instead, they can adversely affect the efforts toward establishing tension-free and good-neighborly relations between India and Pakistan, the spokesman added.

Sharif, Afghan Leaders Leave for Tehran

BK1303102093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1000 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has left Islamabad for Tehran this afternoon on a day's visit to Iran at the invitation of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He is accompanied by certain Afghan leaders, some federal ministers, and members of parliament. The prime minister and the Afghan leaders will hold talks with the Iranian president on matters pertaining to the (?Kabul agreement) with particular reference to the Islamabad accord. The leaders of various Afghan groups signed an accord last week to resolve the Afghan crisis.

Afghan Leaders Named

BK1303145293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, and Afghan leaders left Islamabad for Tehran today on the invitation of Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Afghan leader Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar, former Afghan President Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, and other Afghan leaders are accompanying the prime minister. The prime minister's entourage includes federal minister for labor, manpower, and overseas Pakistanis, Mr. Ejazul Haq; the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo; and some members of Parliament. The president of Afghanistan, Prof. Borhanoddin Rabbani, is reaching Tehran from Makkatul Mukarrama [Holy

Mecca]. During his day's visit, the prime minister is likely to discuss with the Iranian leaders matters of mutual interest and bilateral relations with particular reference to the peace accord signed in Islamabad by the Afghan leaders last week.

Sharif, Others Return

BK1403160093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif arrived in Peshawar directly from Tehran today. He expressed the hope that as a result of the Islamabad agreement and the subsequent talks in Saudi Arabia, the unreasonable and meaningless killing of the people in Afghanistan will be stopped and peace will be restored to that country. Addressing a big public gathering at Chowk Yadgar in Peshawar, he said we have fulfilled God's injunctions by achieving a compromise among the Afghan brethren. He prayed to God to grant the courage and fortitude to the Afghan leaders to end their differences in a spirit of tolerance and brotherhood. The prime minister said the Afghan peace accord will not only open avenues for the development of Afghanistan but it will also have a positive impact on Pakistan's progress. After the restoration of peace, Afghanistan's solidarity will be strengthened.

Referring to his government's policies, Nawaz Sharif reiterated that his government will eliminate tyranny, injustice, illiteracy, and unemployment from the country. He expressed confidence that his noble objective will soon be realized with the cooperation of the people. On this occasion, the people promised to extend their cooperation to him in the fulfillment of this mission.

Recalling his historic public rally during the election campaign in 1990, the prime minister said he will soon make an extensive tour of Peshawar to study local problems. A comprehensive strategy will be prepared to solve the problems of the shopkeepers of Chowk Yadgar. the federal government will provide necessary funds for this purpose. He instructed Chief Minister Mir Afzal Khan to have the Chowk Yadgar drainage system completed. The chief minister and Federal Railway Minister Ghulam Ahmad Billour also spoke on the occasion. Radio Pakistan's Peshawar correspondent says that the prime minister mixed freely with the people gathered at Chowk Yadgar.

After his arrival at the Peshawar airport from Tehran, the prime minister drove directly to Lady Reading Hospital where he inquired about the welfare of Awami National Party leader Khan Abdul Wali Khan. Some federal ministers and Afghan leaders, including Premier-designate Golboddin Hekmatyar, also accompanied Nawaz Sharif. The prime minister has now arrived in Islamabad.

Commentary Hails Mecca Accord on Afghanistan

BK1303052893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 12 Mar 93

[A.B.S. Jafri commentary]

[Text] Thursday March 11 and the place is Mecca Mukarama. One of holiest places of Islam witnessed the finalization of a document which comes to what is the nearest possible point of securing peace, national, and territorial integrity and well-being of Afghanistan and its people. In the presence and with the participation of the king of Saudi Arabia, the prime minister of Pakistan, and Afghan leaders, a document was signed which not only reiterates the agreements arrived at in Islamabad earlier, but also make Saudi Arabia and Pakistan as the witnesses and guarantors to the agreement and its implementation. The fact of persuading Saudi Arabia and Pakistan with the peace arrangements in Afghanistan in such crucially significant equation provides the best possible environment for the success of the efforts to restore war-torn Afghanistan and its people to peace and viable political stability. The Afghan people have gone through, moreover, a decade of the fiercest conflict in which one superpower the next door [words indistinct], several Afghan groups pretty often found themselves in the unfortunate situation of being belligerents.

Throughout this long and traumatic conflict, Pakistan played a central role in many ways. Pakistan hosted more than 3 million Afghan refugees and provided political, diplomatic, and moral support to the movement for the ouster of the invading Soviet forces. After the objective number one—that is, the withdrawal of the Soviet interventionists—was achieved, Pakistan has stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the Afghan people in their search for an abiding peace and a workable political system which could consolidate freedom and take the Afghan people along the path to self-reliance and self-rule. And, at this stage of the Afghan struggle in an exceptionally hostile set of circumstances, Pakistan has tried to be of service and support to the people of its neighboring state. The search for peace and its imposition after an arduous struggle and the internal strains that endured has not been easy. This is not surprising. But the efforts to attain the objective has remained consistent and resolute, many difficult and often exasperating situations notwithstanding.

The (?confirmation) attained at the meeting last evening in Mecca Mukarama is a befitting finale to the sustained striving spread over more than a decade of fighting, devastation, and dislocation of millions of people inside Afghanistan and outside. The fact that the final document paving the way for peace and conciliation has been signed in the very city of Mecca Mukarama with the wholehearted participation of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan promises to ensure that this (?agreement) will be honored by all sections of Afghanistan's political spectrum. Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have undertaken to be the witnesses as well as guarantors for the implementation of this agreement.

It is reasonable to expect that at this crucial turn in their history, all Afghan political and military groups among the patriotic freedom fighters will shed their divisive political propensities and forge a truly enlarged alliance to rescue their nation from its present turmoil. Afghanistan today is a country which is totally ravaged by a long and massively destructive war. Its political structure is in ruins; so is its economy. According to one estimate, the soil of Afghanistan is sown with as many as 3 million killer mines. This soil has to be cleared of the brutal remnants of war, the political climate has to be cleansed of mistrust and rivalries, the government's sovereign authority has to be restored, and the morale of the war-torn nation is to be boosted. The country has once again to find its respected place in the comity of nations. It needs massive injunction of economic aid. But before this can be available, the Afghan people have to set their house in order to regain the confidence of the world willing to help those who are first willing and able to help themselves.

The Mecca agreement happily paves for Afganistan to turn to peace and political stability, even to advancement on the road to national rehabilitation. If the leaders of Afghanistan can find their way to national reconciliation, other problems would be easy to solve and a new day will dawn for Afghanistan.

Karachi Jail Superintendent Killed by Parcel Bomb

BK1403153093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] The superintendent of the Central Jail was killed and a constable was injured in a parcel bomb explosion at the Central Jail in Karachi this afternoon. The parcel was addressed to the jail superintendent and when he tried to open the parcel, it exploded, killing him on the spot and injuring the constable. Investigations into this incident have been started.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Spokesman Denies Involvement in Bombay Bombings

BK1403060293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0553 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Colombo, March 14 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger guerrillas Sunday denied involvement in a spate of bomb attacks which left at least 273 people dead in India's commercial centre of Bombay.

Lawrence Tilakar, the Paris-based spokesman of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), rejected claims by senior Indian officials implicating the Sri Lankan separatist group in Friday's wave of bomb attacks.

"We deny this kind of allegation. We had nothing to do with this. This (attack) is part of the Hindu-Muslim violence going on in Bombay," Tilakar told AFP in a telephone interview.

LTTE Major, 22 'Terrorists' Killed in Toppigala

BK1303113493 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] An LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] major, Akilan, and 22 terrorists were killed in an army inspection [as heard] in Toppigala, while another 17 are believed to be injured. Three Tiger camps in the Toppigala area, two have been captured. [sentence as heard] Five Tigers have also been taken into custody. Troops seized a jeep, a stock of dry rations, and drugs at (Tharawaikulam). The operation launched on Thursday is still continuing.